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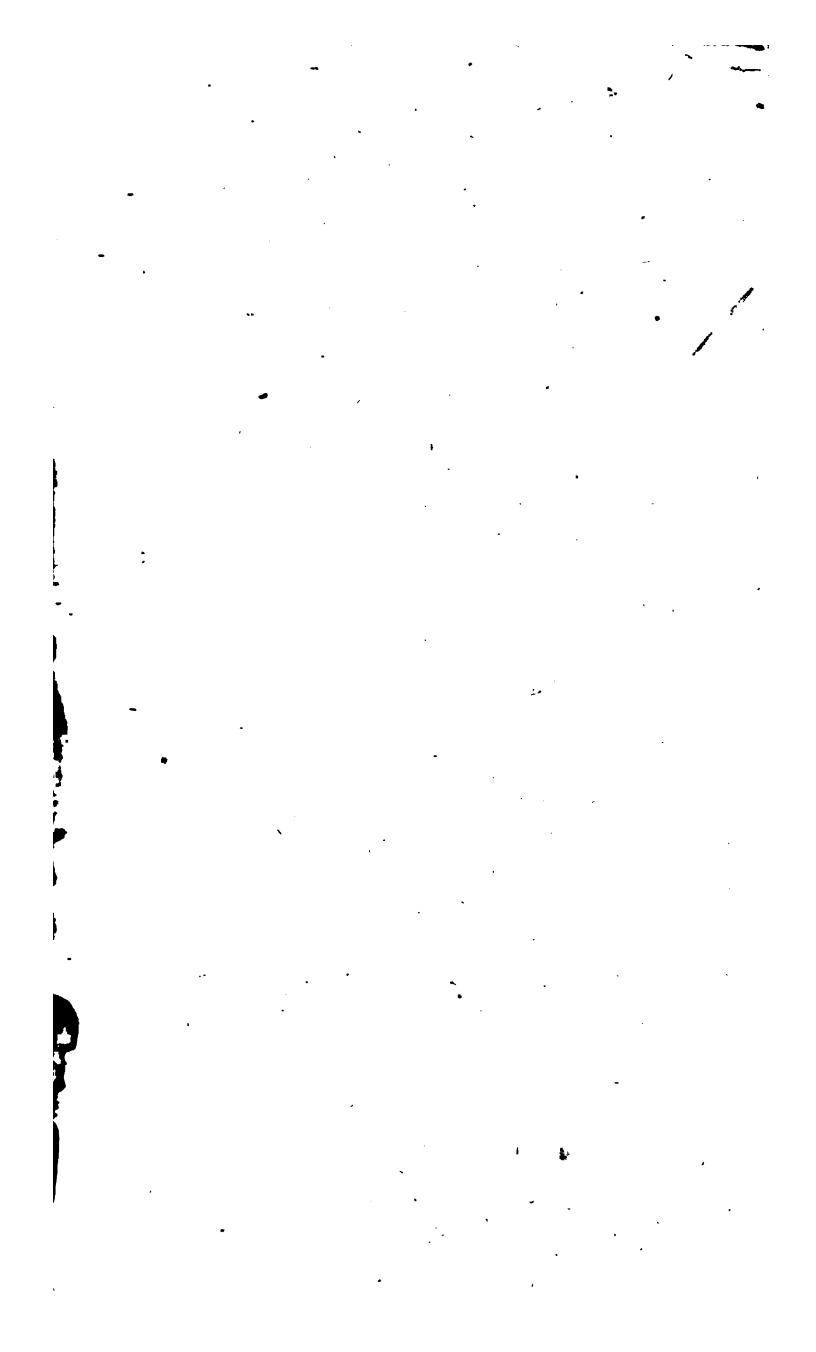
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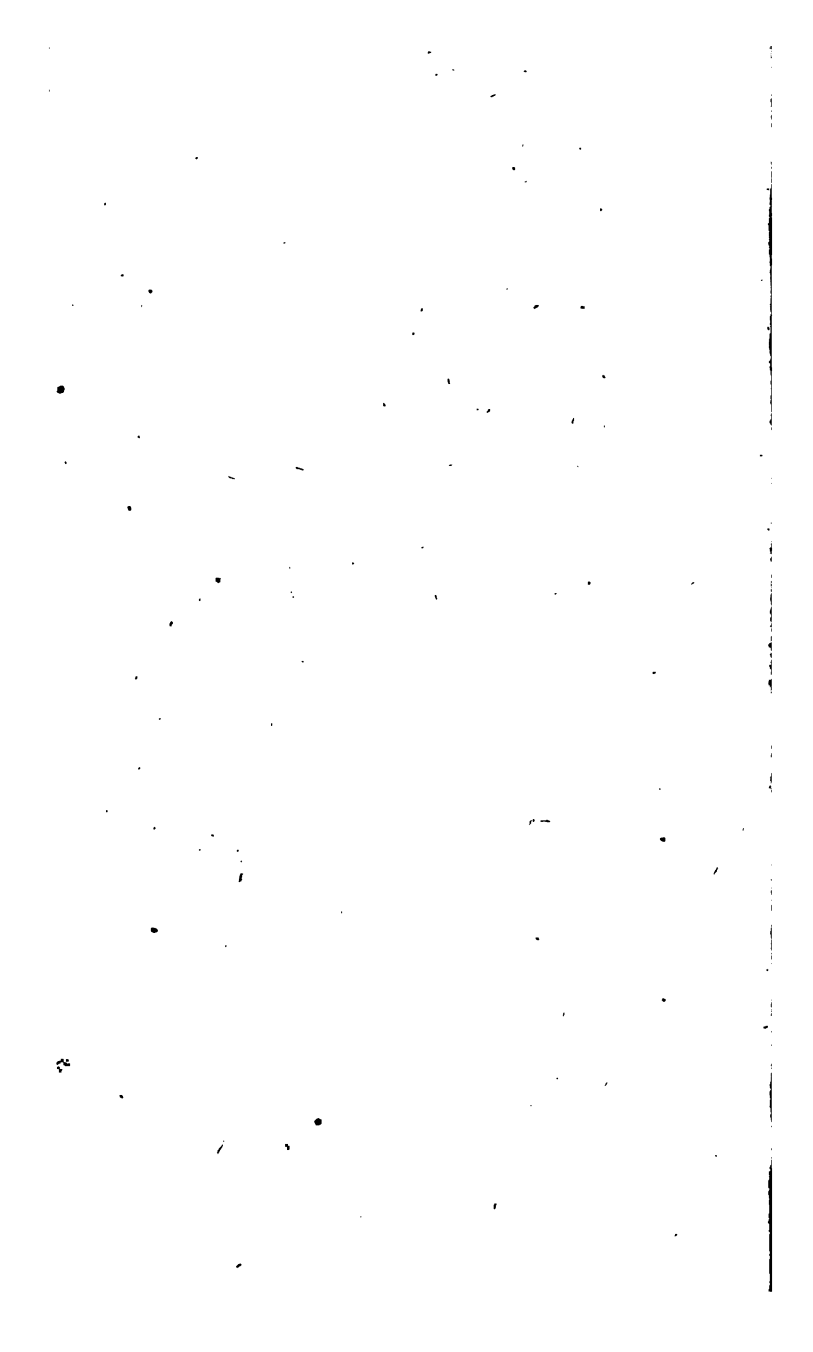
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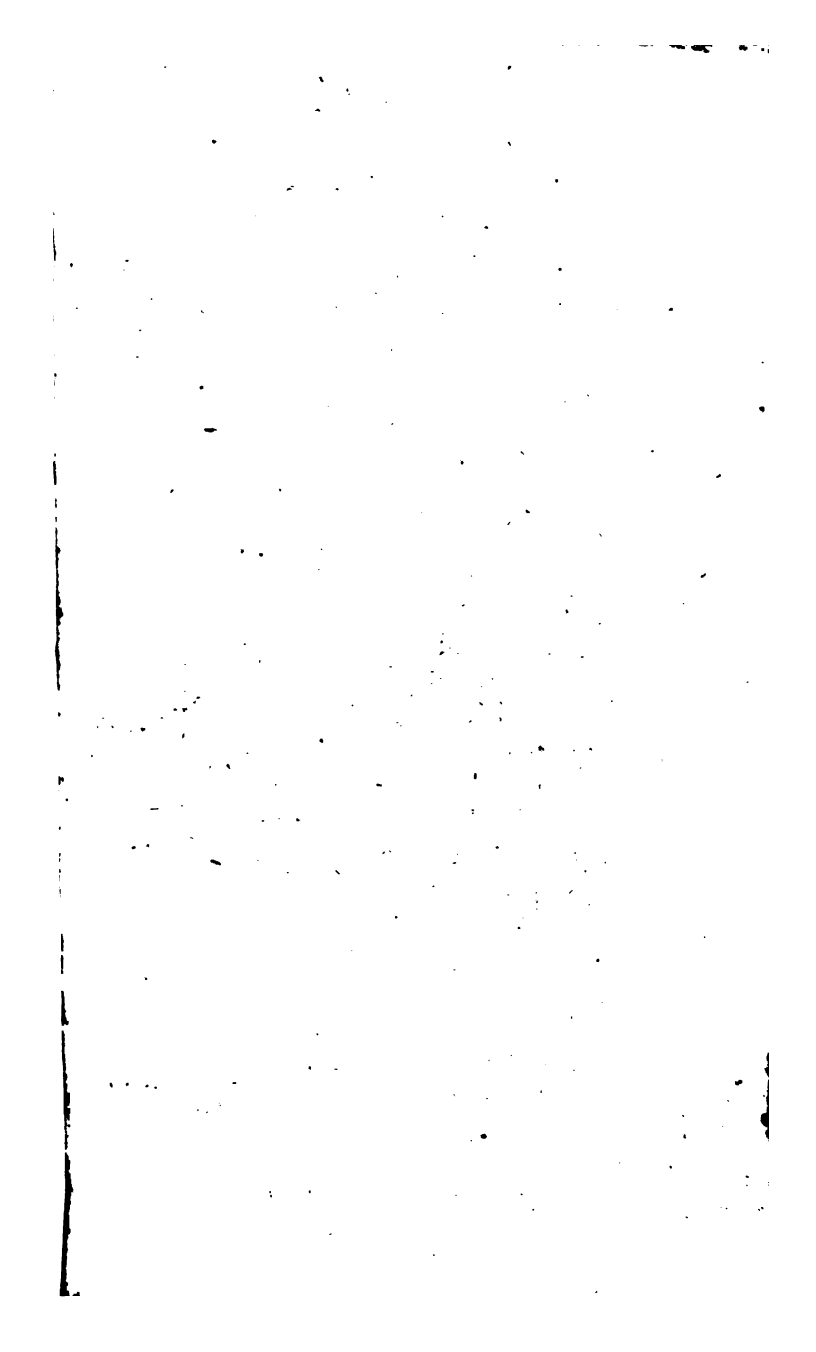
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*To Front Vol. 1.*



THE  
MEMOIRS  
OF  
Miss D'Arville ;

OR THE  
Italian Female Philosopher:

IN A SERIES OF  
ADVENTURES,  
FOUNDED ON FACT.

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TRANSLATED from the ITALIAN.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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VOLUME THE FIRST.

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THE  
MEMOIRS  
OF  
Miss *D'Arville*.

INTRODUCTION.

**I**N writing this history of my life, I seek not, as many of my sex do, for that immortal glory which is to be acquired by virtue of the press; if I aim at any advantage from these my labours, it is principally that of instructing my little daughter, who at present is not at the age of maturity, but by these memoirs, I hope, will learn how to act with discretion when she arrives to it; and if my design should be attended with success, I shall think myself amply recompensed, and that my time has not been spent in vain. But, let that be as

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B.

A.

it will, perhaps they may not prove un-  
serviceable to others, whose curiosity  
may induce them to peruse this work  
for their entertainment: I have no oc-  
casion to adopt the romantic Adven-  
tures of others, my own life being one  
uninterrupted series of extraordinary  
events, which, if they had not really  
happened to myself, would appear, even  
to me, almost incredible. Every one  
whose character makes a part in these  
memoirs, can testify whether I speak  
truth; though I have omitted mention-  
ing their names for many reasons of ho-  
nour and friendship, yet, upon perusal,  
they will soon know whom I am, and  
acknowledge me to be sincere. When  
a woman writes that which procures her  
but little honour, it may justly be said,  
that over self-love and vanity, love of  
truth prevails; and, where that is the  
• case, even her defects merit some allow-  
ance.



## C H A P. I.

*My Education in the Convent of Avignon.*

**I**N what manner it pleased providence to dispose of me till I arrived at the age of ten years, the reader will, in the course of this history, be hereafter more particularly informed : suffice it at present to say, that at that age, I found myself placed to be educated with several young ladies in a convent at Avignon. I was provided with every thing necessary to render life agreeable, and lived so much to my satisfaction that, although I was ignorant from whence I derived my support, I had hitherto given myself no trouble to discover my unknown benefactor. My thoughts were confined to present objects, and my discourse on such subjects alone as were naturally best adapted to my youthful and artless capacity. Such was my state till the secret movements of my heart convinced me that what I enjoyed, in being so well provided for and educated, must necessarily lay me under an obligation to some one ; and the consequence of that reflection made me desire to know the person to whom I was in duty bound to be grateful for the same.

This dictate of nature encreased in me every year ; and though sometimes diverted from serious reflection by childish amusements, I began to consider maturely on the nature of my condition. The other young ladies were frequently visited by their near relations and persons of quality ; for my part, I saw nobody : nevertheless my growing vanity flattered me that I was not inferior to the noblest of them in point of birth. I was often in suspense how I was born, and what in time might be my condition : my spirits were oppressed with a variety of new ideas, and to my former uninterrupted tranquility succeeded the most tormenting inquietude.

Not knowing who were my relations, and having neither friends or parents upon whom by nature I could depend, the thoughts of what was to become of me hereafter gave me great uneasiness. The governess, a woman of sense and experience, was no stranger to those tumults in my mind ; she guessed the motive, but, without desiring to know it from me, prudently endeavoured to divert me from my trouble by her extraordinary tenderness ; her noble heart strove with her spirit, and her obliging manners were truly worthy of both ;  
and

and not a day passed in which I did not receive some signal token of her affection. One day in particular she let slip some words, in presence of the other young ladies, relative to my family; and passed some encomiums upon its magnificence and distinction. Being not at that time in one of my thoughtful dispositions, I took but little notice of what she said; though I must confess it was very agreeable to my vanity, and when I reflected on it afterwards, my curiosity greatly augmented my content. The confused idea suggested to me by my governess of my lofty condition, perfectly corresponded with the grandeur and delicacy of my treatment. Confined as I was to solitude, I neither wanted jewels, cloaths, or money to render me a distinguished figure in life, and qualify me for the most polite assemblies. Nature, who bestowed on me a fine harmonious voice, gave me also a genius for music, in which I was instructed, during the space of three years, by the most able professor in Avignon, by whose lessons I arrived to a great perfection in singing, and became a compleat mistress of the violin and harpichord.

These delightful applications diverted my fancy, and lessen'd my disquiet. My ruling passion was the study of letters. In my tender years I had been taught the German, the English, and Italian; and each of these, besides the French, were to me natural, and had not a little contributed to enrich my mind with knowledge superior to my sex. An innumerable variety of stories, poetry, romances, and voyages, which I read with inexpressible pleasure, gave me daily some new and magnificent idea of this great world that I had not yet seen, and for which I seemed to be born. I delighted greatly in reading, which disturbed me much as often as I reflected upon what I had read, not knowing what figure I should make, in the great theatre, and whether, from the uncertainty of my situation, I ought to number myself among the happy or unfortunate.

## C H A P. II.

*Uncertainty of my Relations.*

**I**N this perplexity of mind I continued, and arrived insensibly at the age of sixteen, at which time my person and stature was little different from the present, though in age more than double that number, and by the many vicissitudes of fortune a little altered. If any one should want my picture, I can easily give it them with that original simplicity which a looking-glass now suggests to me, opposite which I casually find myself while I am writing these memoirs.

My stature exceeded a little the middling, rather delicate and thin, but proportionate in every part. My skin not the very whitest, but of an agreeable tincture, the air of my face having nothing languid and effeminate, though rather lovely. Black eyes, large and sprightly; black hair and eyebrows; a small mouth, a profile nose, with lips more than midlingly red. As to my temper, it is altogether furious and phlegmatic: to give more than ordinary joy it required a great deal, and very little to make me sad; as ready to be

be angry as pleased, being like a fire of straw that is soon extinguished, but in its first impressions capable of blowing up ever so great a flame. All the false steps of my life were the result of my natural impetuous fiery temper. All the fatal consequences that afterwards happened, derived their source, as I may say, from my philosophical phlegm, to which every misfortune seems less hard than the shame to recede from a false step, and shew ones self vile not to be entirely unhappy. Thus I am at present, and such I was in the eighteenth year of my age, when fresh troubles gave me new motives to know myself better. A letter that my governess gave me one day alarmed me beyond expression. Giving it me in the presence of several of my companions, "Take this, madam, said she, it is a letter from your mother; when you have read it answer it as you ought, and please to deliver your answer into my hand." I took the letter with that eager impatience which extreme desire suggested to me; to know who were my relations. I opened it with heart-felt sentiments of affectionate respect which till then I was a stranger to. But, oh! how I remained when I saw it had neither

ther subscription nor date; my first joy changed suddenly into horrible confusion; this confusion passed from my spirits to my heart, and diffused itself through all my nerves. I trembled from head to foot: I sweat, and was like ice in the same moment. The superscription of the letter was as follows: "To Madam D'Arville, in the Retirement of Avignon, in Province;" and the letter run thus:

"Dear Daughter,

The circumstances, unknown to you, that oblige me leave you where you are, serve only to encrease in me the desire of seeing you. Time does not permit it me at present; study therefore to cultivate those noble talents nature has given you, and render your age more worthy of my desires. The tenderness of a mother makes me desire a line in answer to this; you will not deny it me. I shall not omit any thing that can contribute to your education. Don't let vain curiosity torment you to know me. Wait patiently for the day; nor can I tell you how far it is off. With this you'll receive one hundred pistoles to dispose of as you please. Love me; and I am tenderly

Your affectionate Mother."

I read over and over this letter with incredible surprize. To wonder succeeded agitation of heart ; and this was so violent that I had not strength to stand upright, but fell upon the bed without uttering a word, and, with eyes swelling with tears and turning here and there seeking who would clear up my doubts, I took the letter again in my hand and then threw it upon the bed, as though I was insensible of my grief. I called reason to my assistance for motives to calm my spirits, but all in vain ; and every thought, every consideration, every object presented a riddle full of darkness, of which I had not the least comprehension. I had no other knowledge of the world but what I had acquired from books. Reading, had made me conceive a thousand ideas possible to be adapted to my circumstances, but every one of these might deceive me. After two hours profound reflection I knew nothing certain, only that I had a mother who did not refuse letting me know that I was her child.

In this state my governess surprized me, who came expressly into my chamber to find me ; and seeing me upon the bed, sat down very lovingly upon the side of it, saying, Pray, Madam, what



what has occasioned your uneasiness? is it the letter I gave you so unexpectedly? it ought to give you great consolation. Madam, said I, it would have given me great satisfaction had not my mother left her name in the pen. That does not signify, said she, I am certain of her tender regard for you, and these hundred pistoles which I bring by her order may convince you if you have the least doubt. So saying she took from her pocket a green silk purse with the hundred pistoles, I received the purse, and she after a few tender expressions took her leave.

She had hardly got up from the bed to go, but I discovered a letter which she accidentally drop out of her pocket at the time she pulled out the purse. I had some thoughts of calling her back to take it; but she was already at the door, and my curiosity made me silent. Letting her go, I took the letter and found it wrote by the same hand with that from my mother. With impatience leaping from the bed I shut the door of my chamber, and with incredible palpitation of heart I opened it to read.

The first things that attracted my eyes, were to observe the subscription  
and

and the date; but how was I surprized not finding one nor the other. I immediately confronted one with the other and the character seemed to me to be the same, but the style very different; in a word, she desired my governess to insinuate, to me, that it was time I should chuse the life of a cloyster, and in such case that one thousand pistoles were ready for that purpose. I scarce believed myself, but read them again and compared them together. A suspicion came into my head that the governess used some art in regard to me: her actions seemed artful and designing; I could not tell the reason but every thing seemed obscure, and the least shadow seemed to me a riddle that I did not understand the half of. With one arm resting on my toilet, I was making some reflections on their contrarities, when the door (which was still shut) opening with impetuosity, there entered a young German girl that about five years had been my waiting-maid: her name was Celistina, and she returned with an answer to some little affairs of no consequence that I had sent her about betimes in the morning. She was so well acquainted with my temper, and so attentive an observer of the least commotion in me, that she immediately

mediately perceived my agitation. She was going to ask me the cause; but, observing it, I thought it was best to shut her mouth by prevention. Celistina, said I, you find me in the greatest trouble. I observed it, said she; but what, in the name of wonder, can be the cause of so great an alteration? Ah! if you did but know, said I, dear Celistina, it is hardly ten minutes ago that hearing Madam Termes call me from the garden below, I opened the window to see what she wanted, and there flew out of the window the most beautiful bird I ever saw in my life: I don't know how it came into my room, nor do I know who brought it here; but I know very well that I would give any thing in the world it had not got away. If that is all, said Celistina, make yourself easy, that's a thing of little moment: know then — I will not know any thing, added I, that bird gives me more trouble than you can possibly imagine. She went away laughing, and I remained contented with my invention, which took off her curiosity of asking me a thousand questions why I was in such trouble, and prevented many suspicions that might come into the minds of my other companions, if

Vol. I. C they

they should see me altered more than ordinary: The thing succeeded, and no one asked any more about it. All, it is true, in this house loved me; by a thousand little obligations I had gained their esteem, and I knew their affection: I also had my partialities, and in particular for those who were most of my own temper: I had a pleasure in doing good to all, but it also pleased me to have the same return. Nothing disgusted me more than ingratitude, tho' there is nothing one encounters so frequently. Generosity and politeness certainly prevailed most over my mind, which I did not know how to resist; but dissimulation and vanity were always the objects of my most implacable hatred. I should have been glad to have found a candour of heart in every one able to stand any experiment; but experience of the world, in time, taught me that it was to be found but in very few, and it is very dangerous even in ourselves. It may be said, without offending any body, if there was more candour in ourselves, we should find less dissimulation in others. Let this be as it will, the friend in whom I reposed most confidence, was Madam Terres. As she disclosed all her sentiments to me, so I concealed nothing from her: a most incomparable

rable

rable modesty was the rule of all her actions; always equal in her manners, which rendered her always lovely and dear in her conversation. Madam Rencnes was another lady much of the same disposition, for which reason we were generally together from morning till night. The first of these two ladies was subject to a defluxion in the breast, which caused a thousand fears and troubles. The physicians had advised her to guard against the open air upon the setting of the sun; but this precaution gave her some pain, as it deprived her of those evening walks which were her greatest delight. One night that we were walking together in the garden, she was surprised all of a sudden with such a violent coughing, that it was necessary to carry her to her chamber and put her to bed. I passed a very disagreeable night on her account; but my affliction was much greater the day following, when called in great haste to her bed I found her very nigh death. I gave way to such excessive grief, at so melancholy a sight, that it required more to make me calm than to dispose my dear friend for death. Giving me a lovely and languid look, There is no need, said she, to afflict yourself so

C 2

much,

much, because, thank God, I don't yet find myself so bad as perhaps you think me. So saying she gave me her hand, and it seemed as if she had got fresh vigour, with desire to comfort me. I burst into tears, and fell down upon the bed. Oh! no, said she, don't cry, my dear, so piteously, unless you have a mind to grieve me in these last moments of my life: this is the time to make good use of your reason: why so much love for a life of which we are not our own masters? why so much horror for death which is the most incontestable thing we are born to inherit? Though death divides me from you, yet you may have me in your heart; and that I may live perpetually there, here is my picture; preserve it always about you for an authentic proof of that friendship I carry inviolably to the sepulchre, and when ever you look at it do me justice, by confessing that I always loved you most tenderly. She was talking, and I crying, when Count Termes, her brother, entered the room; seeing her in that state he remained immoveable for some time before he could utter one word. Madam Termes was the first to alleviate his grief. Dear brother, said she, this your visit would  
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 be

be an incredible satisfaction, if the pleasure was not diminished in so great a degree by your grief. The Count sat himself down opposite to me. The trouble he saw painted in my face served but to augment his fears. I rose up to go away, and leave them together, but he took me by the hand, and insisted upon my not leaving the room. Your sister, my brother, said she, in a condition not to be able to say much; every moment I find myself draw nearer my end; though I am in the flower of my age, it gives me no great trouble: to a life like mine, accompanied with so much sickness, death may be considered as a relief. The Count, in a few words, admired in his sister her greatness of sentiments; but his grief getting the better of him, he got up, embraced her, and went away, promising that he would be with her the next morning. In taking his leave of the company he distinguished me in a particular manner, though my afflictions at that time prevented my taking much notice of it. Madam Termes in a few hours, after died; I remained much troubled, and he did not return only to assist at her funeral.

## C H A P. III.

*My Dislike to the Life of a Cloyster.*

SOME few days after Count Ter-  
mes asked for me below, and desired to know what was become of his sister's picture that was not to be found among her other little things. I replied, that it was in my possession, and that his sister herself had given it to me. This confession I should have been glad to have avoided, fearing he might make a demand of it; but in obliging words he assured me to the contrary. I am glad, said he, that it is in your hands, as I know you will make the same account of it as if I myself had it; but because you will honour the memory of my sister by preserving her picture, accept also of this snuff-box which was already designed for her. So saying he took the picture out of my hand and fixing it in the box, returned it to me very courteously, and took his leave without giving me time to thank him for it. Returning to my chamber I felt myself overcome with melancholy: the memory of my deceased friend, the uncertainty of my birth, my present situation, and a thousand tormenting reflections



reflections of futurity, assailed me all at once. Desiring to be alone that I might indulge myself more freely in melancholy thoughts, I gave Celestina some orders that obliged her to go from me immediately. Without knowing what I did, I walked several times a-cross the room, and then sat down; I opened a book, and then shut it again; I opened the two letters from my mother that I might examine them again, but to no more purpose than before. I took out of my pocket the box with the picture of Madam Tetmes, almost ready to cry for the loss of her, but what was my surprize, when, on opening it, I found her brother's picture, instead of hers! Then, but too late, I perceived the error that I had committed by a blind tenderness towards my friend, in which I suffered myself to be deceived. A thousand thoughts all at once, of fear, of honesty, of shame, crowded in upon my mind. Between confusion and anger, I shut the box, never to open it again, resolving to let the Count know that I thought myself used ill if he did not return me his sister's picture and take back his own. I was at the point of sending it back to him with a letter, but that seemed to me to be rather unbecoming.

becoming. I determined however to wait an occasion of seeing him. Between these troublesome perplexities I was caught by Celestina, who accosted me with a laugh; Oh! do you know, Madam, said she laughing, do you know Madam Rose, she that pretended to be your friend, and came so often to see you? she, they say, ran away last night from her house with her lover. In this style she gave me a full account of the story. From this she passed to describe the train and equipage of a great personage of the kingdom that had passed by Avignon, going to Paris. By the force of chat she diverted my thoughts so much that I passed the remainder of that day pretty easy, and I slept the next night less interrupted. By sleeping I gathered a little more strength, but I could not stifle the memory of my two letters. Those two fatal letters came frequently into my mind: by little and little I found my blood chill with fear of being shut up in a nunnery. Heaven had by no means called me to that state of life; the example of so many others, instead of easing me, served only to frighten me the more. From thence I found I was under an indispensable necessity for  
once

once to think for myself. The quiet hours of the night, the most remote part of the house, and the silence of this my solitude, invited me to call to my assistance my most mature thoughts, to determine what part I ought to take. If I thought of such a life as this, it was using myself with violence : to my fiery and lively temper, the most extravagant resolutions had no horror in them. After thinking a long time, I found myself ready to undertake any thing, and resolved in my heart not to spend my life in a voluntary prison. One day, in particular, I was walking alone in the most remote part of the garden, when Madam Rennes saluted me in the name of Count Termes, adding, that he had enquired with great concern about my health. I returned her thanks as I ought, and I was almost ready to charge her with the delivering him the picture ; but the governess came suddenly upon us, and took me aside, saying she wanted to speak with me.

My first suspicion was that she knew something of the picture, and that she was come to enquire of me about it. Knowing her to be a woman of great penetration, I was careful not to discover what passed in my mind ; and concealed

cealed my sentiments with so much art, that she had not the least suspicion. She began by talking of Madam Rennes, exhorting me not to keep company too much with her. She talked also of the deceased, saying, that there was a very great difference between them though they were cousins. From hence moderately raising the passions of my mind and my heart, she fell insensibly upon what she came about. You know, said she, whether I love you or not, and I would also have you know how much I desire to see you always content. You are now of full age to distinguish that it is time to think of what will become of you; and what state of life you would chuse, that you may not hereafter repent: the world is so full of deceit, that they that live the farthest from it enjoy the greatest tranquility of mind: I have always admired the happiness of those that know how to find all the world in their cell, and that build their felicity in themselves: all the flowers of the age have their thorns; vice triumphs in the world, because the number of the vicious prevails; virtue is to be praised, but here it is persecuted: there is nothing good but in appearance, and this self-same appearance

is

is not reserved for those that are the most worthy, but for those alone that abuse it most by doing harm to others in the world. Child, a thousand circumstances will unite for your comfort; with a design to make a competent figure: to dishonour you; to make you contemptible and unhappy, one alone is enough; and the man the most vile upon earth, can hurt you more than a monarch can possibly make up to you.

I observed all this premeditated discourse with impatience to know where it would end, because she proceeded with so much deliberation. I gave her now and then a reason, applauding her maxims, and uniting my sentiments with hers. She was caught in the trap. My dear, says she, how much this laudable disposition delights me; persevere in this, persist against all obstacles that may be put in your way by those that think of any thing but your good, and don't confide, in circumstances so delicate, either on me or yourself.

Madam, your mother, for what I know, has destined you for the great world; but she does not reflect . . . apropos, Have you answered that letter I gave you the other day? Not yet, I replied, but I will do it, and I'll let  
her

her know in it that I do not love the world; and if she loves me, she ought to agree that I should live as far as possible from it. At these words she embraced me tenderly; and walking together through a shady walk, the bell for supper rung; after supper I returned to my chamber, and wrote thus to my mother :

“ Dear Mother,

The circumstances that oblige you to hide from me my birth, happen less disagreeable to me at present, since I have found in you a mother so worthy of my regard. By the hands of our governess I have received a letter that you have deigned to write me, and have read it with such sentiments of love as I never experienced before. For my greater joy and satisfaction I must now beg a favour of you, that is, to believe that I love you, tho’ I have not the pleasure to know you; and that shewing yourself a tender mother, I shall always shew myself a dutiful daughter. In regard to your person, I shall always desire to know something more, to be able to honour you as you merit; but all this I remit to your own judgment and prudence, and am content to be sure that I am dear to you. For the remainder,  
 dear

dear mother, what with the sweetness I enjoy in this my solitude, I don't know what to desire more except that of the pleasure of embracing you, and of seeing you fully content. Expecting with impatience that heaven will grant me that good fortune, in the mean time I tender you my sincere thanks for the favours you are continually dispensing me; and I hope you will enjoy the testimony that I here give you of my profound respect. I am

Your most dutiful  
and obedient Daughter

D'A."

I got up very early next morning to read over this letter, and I found it, as it ought to be, to give into the way of thinking of my governess and my mother. I was content with myself; and it seemed to me I had done a great deal, having so well dissembled my true sentiments to delude the intentions of both who acted with so little sincerity to me. In that first heat of youth and passion, I judged I had treated them as they merited: but how soon did I find that the paths of youth are indiscreet and slippery, and that I with these arts deceived myself more than others. I car-

ried the letter that same morning to the governess, and desired her to seal it, not doubting in the least but she would have curiosity enough to read it; but I was on the other hand certain, that she would be, by that means, confirmed in the good opinion of me, in which I had' left her the preceding day. Returning from her I met Celestina, who told me I was asked for at the gate; so finding myself tolerably well dressed, I went down immediately, without suspecting who it could be that enquired for me.

#### C H A P. IV.

##### *My first Love with the Count of Termes.*

**O**N the ground floor, where I was expected, I found the Count, who was amusing himself with some pictures with which it was furnished. At the sight of him my spirits were fluttered. After the usual compliments, I protested that his visit surprised me very much. He most obligingly answered me by begging an excuse for his boldness, and desiring that I would attribute the fault to that cordial friendship that had rendered me so sensible of the death of his  
sister,



sister, and entitled me to his respect were it only through gratitude.

My eager impatience to enter upon the discourse of my box and the picture, did not permit that I should lose time in useless ceremonies; but the Count had no desire to talk of that, and obliged me to be the first to introduce it, though abruptly. Sir, said I, the mention of your sister's death brings to my mind a change very extraordinary, that happened the other day; in this box, observe here, instead of the picture of my friend I find one that exactly resembles you. This unexpected discourse surprised him in such a manner that he started back, and confusedly said, in changing the picture I could never have believed that I should have offended you. I affected to be disgusted, giving him to understand I wanted it back; whether he thought so or no, to exempt himself from taking it back again, he made a low bow and departed. Contrary to my inclination he deprived me of the pleasure of his conversation; and when I retired to my chamber, I reproved myself bitterly. How much the passions are altered by the objects! I had acted in a manner consistent with my age and character, yet my delicacy

seemed to be unseasonable ; and as I was already touched at heart, I fell unexpectedly into a profound melancholy.

I don't intend by this to justify my weakness in the eyes of the public, I am condemn'd by myself; in those circumstances I ought to have made better use of my reason. The uncertainty of my birth demanded quite otherwise than a love engagement ; but I am a woman ; I was young, nor was I the only one that had began to love at so tender an age. To be sensible of love, it is enough there are men ; the beginnings are flattering and sweet : those that have not experience of the world cannot foresee the effects. Among the men there are faces that enchant one at first sight. Add to this, that after having seen the Count often, occasioned by his coming to see his sister, I had overcome all little punctilios ; and I don't know how, but all my tenderness for her returned to speak in his favour. The grief at having lost so fine an opportunity of letting him know my heart, deprived me of my sleep and quiet : The day following I was still busied in these thoughts, when, contrary to all my expectations, a poor woman of the neighbourhood brought me, in the  
name

name of the Count of Termes this letter :

“ Madam,

If you have any sentiments of compassion for the picture that remains in your hands, I should console myself for the loss of a lovely sister with the hopes of having found another in your person. I shall preserve hers ; be content that I remember both her and you. Forget me, however, if your heart will suffer it ; but be persuaded, that the hope of being in your's, can only make me amends for a loss in which you yourself have so great a share. I am, with all respect,

Your most humble,

and most obedient Servant,

TERMES.”

This letter entirely changed me from what I was ; before I read it, I told the person that brought it to return in two hours for the answer : the answering it did not cost much violence to my modesty ; as the Count treated me like a sister, it justified, in some measure, my forwardness ; I continued to answer him in the same style, and wrote him, That as things stood on the same terms by him

mentioned, I should esteem myself honoured, if he thought me worthy of any part of that esteem and consideration that he had had for a sister, who neither by him or me could be enough esteemed. The messenger returned to me at the precise hour; I gave her the letter, which she received, with so much assiduity to carry it immediately, that I judged that day would not pass without the Count's coming again to see me. Here he is, in fact, in about an hour after, with a laughing and intrepid air as if he was certain of the conquest he meditated. How great is my felicity, says he smiling, to find you so serene, after the displeasure I occasioned you without intending it? to a soul like your's, that judges rightly, reason is not wanting to justify my assurance: your letter to me gave me great consolation, making me hope, that I have found in you one half of my self; and this hope alone is enough that I should excuse your disobliging austerity. It's easy to be imagined, that by what I had said I could not lessen in him the heat of these his amorous hopes. Two hours of conversation were more than enough to transform a brother and sister by name only, into two passionate lovers.

Our

Our love, more than fraternal, was no longer stifled in our breasts; after this ensued reciprocal declarations, and the most sincere protestations; nor should we have finished so soon if Madam Rennes, whom I had not seen all that day, had not surprised and interrupted us. I saw rage painted in her countenance, at having found me in a close conversation with her cousin. The Count, who also saw it, changed immediately his language to take off any suspicion, by telling her, that she seemed much troubled, and that he desired to know the reason that had occasioned it. She guessed the motive of his coming, and without dissimulation gave him to understand, that so long a visit she did not think well of. The Count began to joke, the better to persuade her of his indifference in regard to me; but seeing he did it without the desired effect, he departed in a few moments, and she went off laughing. I did not take any notice of her behaviour, because I was too much overcome with joy at having gained so much ground in a country where I wanted to reign.

To apologize for my weakness, I must say, that the Count of Termes was an amiable Chevalier, that he had merit,

merit, spirit, and virtue; and that I would very willingly have given him an absolute dominion over my heart, if I had been my own mistress. Madam Renn's began from that day to look with jealous eyes on all our motions; but in spite of her vigilance, we did not see each other less than three or four times a week for the two following months. The governess was soon apprized of our friendship; she gave me to understand that she should be better pleased if I could dispense with these visits less frequently, without however telling the Count that this came from her. I received these orders with all respect, but answered, that I would not break it to that gentleman so suddenly; that I should insensibly dispose him to comply; and that this civil regard was owing to a person of his character, that I had been acquainted with so long a time. My love did not permit me to proceed with that caution that was prescribed to me: I still continued to receive the visits of the Count as usual; I confided in the measures already taken, to be able to see each other without danger; and all was truly concerted, that I should be his wife; when all on a sudden it was intimated to me, not  
to

to see him any more ! Let those imagine, who know what love is in the heart of a girl, what was then my situation, and what ideas came immediately into my mind.

The order seemed to me a certain presage that they already thought of shutting me up by main force in a cloyster. The distance of the Count cut off every advice and assistance ; besides, I was agitated with the apprehension of that violence the Count would commit on himself : it seemed to me, that the not seeing him was already the first step to his entirely forgetting me ; and the sole suspicion of this fatal forgetfulness, reduced me to the utmost desperation. On the other hand, I dared not shew the least sign of my inward troubles, not to confirm the suspicions of those that attentively observed me. The constraint I put on myself is incredible : when I was alone, I destroyed myself in tears ; when any one arrived, I affected gaiety and sprightliness that cost me the greatest reluctance. To my succour I called my most serious reflections ; I painted my lover as my ideas were, a person of honour ; and that, in spite of so many contrarieties, he would never leave to love me : I figured

gured to myself, that my spirits were superior to all proofs; and, with the example of a thousand love-adventures read in books, I took my present calamity for an infallible sign of my being one day happy. Had any one told me how far such a day was off, and how long I had to sigh, perhaps I had been more wise. No one could penetrate to know what passed within me; my counsellors were, despair and love. The Count knew nothing of me for two weeks afterwards, nor could I risk his having any news of me: from whence all my reflections finished, by seconding the impulses of my nature, and furnishing myself with virile courage against all the caprices of my perverse fortune.

One day, in which I found myself more than ever disposed to undertake any thing not to lead a life worse than death, Celistina took me apart and put into my hand a billet from the Count, which was not sealed, and contained only these few words :

“ Madam,

I have no more time than to advise you of my immediate departure for the army in Italy. The orders that I have received neither admit of delay or reply.



ly. Wherever I am, I shall be always  
our's. Preserve yourself faithful, and  
hope."

This news was to me like a clap of  
thunder. The hand-writing was the  
Count de Termes; but the style, the  
brevity, the want of the name, a de-  
parture so precipitate and unexpected—  
altogether was a mystery to me of which  
I did not comprehend one word. I in-  
terrogated Celistina how she had got  
that paper; she had nothing more to  
tell me, than that she had it from a friend  
of hers that had it from the Count's own  
hand two days before. Then he is de-  
parted! cried I, almost beside my-  
self, he is departed! nor may I hope to  
see him any more! This stroke, I need  
no longer doubt, comes from my mo-  
ther; she takes from me, by her secret  
management, a husband, because she  
would have me buried in a cloyster; but  
no, it shall not be so, if it should cost  
me my life. Thus I went on, not  
knowing what I said; my furious pas-  
sion had taken away my senses, nor did  
I perceive that, by Celistina's being  
present, I betrayed a secret which, till  
that time, I had kept with so much re-  
gard: the stone was flung, nor did it  
signify

signify withholding my arm, as it would go where destin'd. By these few words Celistina comprehended all. I had already a thousand proofs of her fidelity; but then, with tears in her eyes, she shewed me in such a manner her heart, that I had not the least motive to repent of my having admitted her to my confidence; in order to console me, she advised me to hope that I should be one day happy. I shall be, answered I resolutely; it shall be, dear Celistina, if you will have it so. My felicity is not to be hoped for in this place; to find it, it is necessary that I should be put at liberty; and if you don't assist me in this great undertaking, prepare yourself to see me die a desperate death. These words, pronounced by me with a vivacity superior to my sex, made such an impression on her that she did not know how to answer me better than by throwing herself at my feet, closely embracing my knees, and protesting that for me she would give her own life. In raising her from the ground, I kiss'd her with the love of a sister; and to profit of her intents, so much in my favour, I immediately communicated to her my thoughts, and charged her with the necessity there was to put them into execution.

execution. I gave her all I had that was valuable, in cloaths, jewels, and silver, that she might sell them privately; and in a few days she brought me three hundred pistoles, which, added to the hundred I had received by order of my mother, enlarged my heart, and put me in such a state that I did not care for all the world. This being done, I gave her directions to provide every thing necessary to dress me in the habit of a man; I told her that whatever remained in my trunk, should be her own, and that this would be a proof of my love and gratitude, and, at the same time, a consolation in the necessity I was under to separate myself from her. Separate yourself from me! - said she, crying, this shall never be; I don't know, dear Madam, what your intentions are, but I very well know my own fixed resolution: wheresoever your steps are turned to, I will follow you; with you I may say I have been brought up, and with you I will die; and if you have the heart to leave me behind, you will be unworthy of that felicity I wish you, and which you will procure by my means, at the price of all my future happiness. I prevented her from going on at this rate, with intention that she

might make reflections more serious, and more suitable to my reputation. I was sensible that my fortune and honour were at stake, and I could never have enjoyed a quiet hour, had I been in any means accessory to her ruin: more unhappy myself could not be, whatever happened to me; but I dreaded the consequences of involving her in my misfortunes. These my objections were all to no purpose, Celistina insisted upon going with me, and, after various arguments, for and against, it was at length concluded between us that we should make our escape together; and she took upon her the care of disposing things in a proper manner, that our flight should not be either discovered or interrupted.

## C H A P. V.

### *My Flight from the Convent of Avignon in Man's Apparel.*

**I** Am now come to that extraordinary part of my life which was the foundation of a thousand afflictions, and which formed the extravagant thread of these my uncommon adventures, resolved on by me in the heat of my vehement passion, and carried into execution

cution in cool blood with as much indifference and resolution as if the consequences were quite immaterial. My birth was a secret, my education very austere, my destiny undoubtedly contrary to my inclinations; a mother unknown, a politic governess, a lover lost, a cloyster waiting for me, were reasons that would justify my proceeding to all the world, if I was not the first to condemn it, that it might not serve others for an example : at present I know that by such a precipitate undertaking fortune conducted which way she pleased; but perhaps she would have guided me still by ways less fatal and dangerous, nor ought the happy success of a blameable undertaking to excuse the rashness of my conduct.

In the space of a few days Celistina had put every thing in order that was needful for our departure, and came to advise with me on the manner in which I ought to act in the execution of our design. At day-break I was to go down into the garden, where she was to have ready a ladder for me to scale the walls: at the gates being opened we were to go out of the city and to walk to Sorgues, about a league and half distant from Avignon, where a returned chaise for

Lyons was to wait for us, for which she had agreed to pay fifteen livres. In our situation nothing could fall out better; I kissed and embraced her with joy at having so well seconded my intentions; I will, said Celistina, in the mean time tell the family that you find yourself much indisposed, and desire them not to wait for you at supper; but that I will take something for you to your own chamber: so that if they should not see you betimes to-morrow morning, it may prevent their immediate suspicion. By this contrivance no one came up to disturb me in my apartment. Celistina went away pretty late, telling them at the gate that she should not return, as she proposed to tarry that night with a near relation of hers at the point of death. Whatever I had that was valuable was taken by little and little out of the house and sold. The night seemed very tedious; but at last the moment arrived that I so much wished for to be out of my prison. At the first appearance of the morning I jumped from the bed, where I had lain all night in my cloaths, and walking softly down, took the way to the garden. At the place appointed I found Celistina, who was already mounted upon the top of the

the wall and was there waiting for me. She then drew up the ladder by which she had got up on the out-side, and let it down for me who was within, that I might get upon the wall: I did so with incredible haste, and one after the other, we descended by the same ladder into the street, where a relation of Celestina, who was already in the secret, took me in her arms, and immediately conducted us to her house. This enterprize was a thing of great moment for a woman, for a young woman of my age, who had been educated under the most strict discipline. Perhaps it was either the unexpected joy of seeing myself at liberty, or thro' fear of being caught on my flight, I was taken with such a heart-beating that I trembled from head to foot, as if I dreaded every moment to be my last. Having revived my spirits with a glass of cordial, with which our friend was opportunely provided, Celestina began to dress my hair after the fashion that men wear it. I dressed myself also in man's apparel not very gay, but of a good taste and genteel. She put on herself a dress after the English fashion for travelling; and made me give her my arm, as if I had been her gallant, and after bidding

adieu to our confidant, we walked hastily to get out of the city. The first gate that opened was that near the river; we arrived there just as the draw-bridge was letting down, and passed slowly over without being taken notice of by any body. We went out into the country as if with design to take a cool walk in the morning; and, when there was no danger of our being observed, we hastened on, taking the direct road to Sorgues. I walked so fast, that Celistina could hardly keep up with me; Madam, says she, laughing, since you came from Avignon you have wings to your feet. It is necessary to have them, I replied, that we may not be overtaken: I think I have the governess at my back, and feel her carrying me by force back again to my cell. Here I stopped, and being seized with a spirit of liberty, which was all the effect of my weakness, I called on heaven for its curses on my head if ever it should come into my thoughts to return back to my prison, or listen to any one who should advise me to it. Celistina believing I meant her, assured me, that she never should have spoke of it, and that the receding was unbecoming a female philosopher. By this  
time



time the sun was risen, and she, giving me a glance from head to foot, began to laugh without my knowing the reason. A fine husband ! said she, still laughing, a fine husband that I have found without looking for one ! What think you, added I, don't I make a sufficient figure in this dress ? The figure is good, replied she, but for a husband the figure is not enough : the case is really extravagant, that one girl should be husband to another, but in our circumstances nothing can be thought of better ; besides, your disguise now puts you in possession of a liberty that is not familiar to our sex ; you also shut the mouth of scandal, because to a wife in company with her husband, and to a husband in company with his wife, all is permitted. Celistina spoke in this joking manner, but her extravagant idea pleased me when more serious ; and this part of being thought man and wife wherever we went, seemed to me to be quite proper to exempt us from the researches of the curious, and to be less exposed to the danger of being discovered. Since it is to be so, said she, it is necessary to put a name to the pretended personage that you are to represent in the world, and to feign  
the

the country in which you was born, the education with which you was brought up, the character that your family sustains, and, lastly, the motives you have in travelling Europe in company with your wife. All these precautions were necessary, that we might not vary, whenever speaking of ourselves, and to elude the sagacity of those that might follow us, and who, by private letters, or the public papers might get intelligence of us by particular descriptions. It was concluded between us, that I should pretend to be an Italian nobleman by birth, and that I should say I was travelling to foreign courts in search of preferment ; as to the name that I was to take upon me, we were not a little embarrassed to find one that was unknown to all the world, and by which we should not put ourselves in danger of being discovered : after much consideration it was concluded that I should be called Count Richard, and she should pass for Madam the Countess, my wife. Upon this extravagant idea what did not Celistina say, and what did she not do to divert me ; she asserted that all this falsehood would cost but one word ; it being usual for me, in our language, to  
 call

call her my chamber-maid, it was enough that I omitted that word chambermaid and she immediately became my wife : she added, that it was proper we should think of celebrating the nuptials, which she would have done privately for the sake of œconomy ; that we could sleep together without fear of having any children born to augment the expences of the family. With such like discourses we arrived at Sorgues. Though the going on foot incommoded me, I walked as nimble as if I had served five or six campaigns in a regiment of infantry ; the joy of being at liberty gave me vigour ; the hopes of bettering my condition would have made me walk to the Antipodes. About ten o'clock in the morning we arrived at Sorgues, where I found the chaise ready, and mounting it immediately we proceeded on our road. This was very near the hour in which they must discover my flight. I was under no apprehension of pursuit from the convent, but pleased myself with the reflection of what would be said then in Avignon of this affair of mine : I thought I saw all these good women in disorder and confusion ; some running

ning up and down looking for me thro' all the house; others calling with a loud voice the governess of the place, and meeting her, cry out, Ah! Madam, don't you know Madam D'Arville is gone off? she is not to be found all over the house; her chamber is empty, somebody has certainly assisted her; she must be followed before she gets too far off. The thought that pleased me most was, that of having known so well how to elude their vigilance, and of being revenged on my mother who had prohibited me all commerce with the Count, and who, by force of fair words, would sacrifice me to a cloyster, to which heaven had not called me. Had they taken proper methods they might easily have overtaken us; but knowing what sort of people I had to deal with, this thought did not give me the least uneasiness: confusion prevailed with them rather than prudent council; they vented in useless talk their wonder, and wrangling upon the manner of the event, they neglected the remedy which they ought, in haste, to have laid hold of: an attentive father, a man of sense, might have overtaken us before we had arrived at Sorgues, as we made no great haste to our horses. Tho' I had the bold-

ness

ness to project a flight, I am debtor for having executed it so happily, not so much to my own sagacity and good fortune, as to the indolent neglectfulness of those who lament it without benefit, and who knew not how to remedy it, as I shall shew hereafter.

## C H A P. VI.

### *My Arrival at Lyons, and a Resolution taken to traffic.*

**I**N the dusk of the evening we arrived at Lyons; and, some few days after our arrival, I understood by the discourse that my flight was public through all the city. It was said, that a young woman of illustrious birth was suddenly gone from the nunnery of Avignon, and that they could hear no news of her. They related the particulars of my flight quite contrary to what they were in reality; they gave the plainest tokens of my flight, and manner of my dress; and added, that search had been made at the city gates of Avignon for such a person, and dressed in such a manner, and were assured, that no such person had been seen to go out of the city, and that the common opinion was that I was still in Avignon, hid in some  
par-

particular house; there were also those that would frankly assert, that I had taken refuge in the Count de Termes's palace. Thus people deceive themselves in their own judgment; and whatever happens in public report is ever subject to these variations. They might seek me as much as they pleased in Avignon, and not have found me; and on the other hand, it was very true that they had not seen me go out of the city, as the changing of my dress had deceived them. It was very well that there only they expected to find me, and did not follow me farther; but making the figure of a married man, they could not even suspect that there was a woman, hid under my cloaths. Thus we remained quiet some days in our lodgings at Lyons, and, having nothing else to employ us, we were continually making serious reflections on futurity. At Lyons we could not always remain; not having there any connections we might soon be suspected and found out. To prosecute our journey any farther, would be expensive, and diminish our finances every day, with travelling and the charges of chaise-hire; but then how could we live in this place, and find money to supply our wants?

wants ? from these thoughts, which gave me much trouble, Celistina endeavour'd to divert me, by jesting ; You are a charming gentleman, says she to me ; make your court to some of those ladies, it is impossible but that you will make some conquest, and then our fortune is made. There should be something else, my dear wife, answered I, in our case ; few of those women are to be found that make mens fortune ; and, by seeking for such, a thousand are to be met with that may be our ruin ; to gain their confidence, you must second their humours, and their extravagant fancies, and, by what I have hitherto read and understood, will cost one a treasure. It is not that sprightliness, good grace, and talents ; that distinguish men in the most improving conversation ; but gaming, public shews, dinners, parties of pleasures, and buffooneries, are the soul of the modern taste ; and he is most esteem'd who spends most like a fool, or by desperate playing.

If I was to follow this trade, of the five hundred pistoles which I have at present, in five days I should not have a farthing ; and the vain hope of an uncertain conquest, would cost me a certain loss. Then let us think of some-

thing else, replied Celistina; nor will we depart from the maxims of so reasonable a philosophy, which makes me more and more in love with you. The money which we have is our best friend; we do not expect them from any other part; from this we have our sustenance, and, as we have nothing but ourselves to keep, let us expend it to some advantage: we are in a country where commerce flourishes, and where there are to be purchased rich embroidered silks, both in gold and silver, and for which a much greater price is paid in all the cities of Europe; let us put ourselves into trade, by laying out in merchandize the major part of the money you have; we will sell them again in other countries, by which means the capital will be reserved intire, and by the profits of the same, as many others have done, we shall defray our expences.

This project was less dangerous than the other, but this also had its difficulties: our capital was too small to bring a profit sufficient to supply all our necessities; for a lucrative trade, it required a large sum, or great credit; the chief support of the richest and most flourishing traders depends upon credit; and such may have in their magazines



gazines a capital of one hundred thousand crowns, and be in debt half a million; but they seldom fail, because they constantly find fresh supplies to maintain their credit. Besides all this, said I to my wife, to trade with profit, it is necessary to know accompts, and the advantages in buying and selling; in all this, we are in the dark; and I should not be less embroil'd by being a merchant, than a physician, a lawyer, or a soldier. To these difficulties Celistina found a remedy by the example of many women of her acquaintance, who, with a very small beginning, were become very rich merchants; and insisted that this was the best party for us. She said she would speak of it, as a thing of her own, to our landlady: that she could give her some light in these affairs. I did not oppose her desire, as I judged her to be a woman of art and cunning; and I thought I could confide in her. Mrs. Tavenot, so was my landlady called, was daughter to a rich merchant, and a man of credit, but who had failed by living too high: the late failure of her father had not permitted her to find a husband, such as she deserved: she was not however debased by her marriage, as she had married

ried an officer with whom she had lived a little more than four years, and who was killed at the siege of Barcelona; she remained a widow, maintaining herself by a little traffic, and by letting ready-furnished lodgings to people of distinction. To her hastened Celistina, and, in full confidence of her intentions, she received all the instructions that were necessary to us on that head. She conducted her through all the city, and made her acquainted with the richest merchants in Lyons; she shewed her all kinds of stuffs and silks of different qualities; she taught her the properest method to be taken in buying, and where she might sell them again; she contracted for the price of the same; upon the whole, she made her lay out, in so much goods, four hundred pistoles, assuring her, that, if she followed her advice, she would get five hundred pistoles for them when ever she sold them. While Celistina was going about these affairs, which could not be dispatched in one day, I passed my time in reading, in my lodgings, all the good books that had been printed lately: two, among the rest, I read with incredible delight more than once; and from these I learned a great deal: the one was intitled,

tled, " Philosophy for Women," the other, " The Art of Thinking Well ; " the first was wrote in French, the second in English ; and both, before I had any great practice in the world, in these few days taught me how to live. Reading was never any trouble to me ; but one day, in particular, I found I had need of some other amusement ; and as Celistina never returned home in the day, I went out to pass half an hour in a coffee-house, a very little way distant from my lodgings ; and finding at the door an officer, I went in with him : we saluted, and sat down together. There were, on one of the tables, the news-papers of the day ; the waiter presented the officer with them, but he only ran them over, and gave them to me that I might divert myself, if I had a mind to read them. I ran my eye immediately over them till I came to the date from Avignon, and there I found a long story of my flight. By Celistina's confidant many circumstances had been related ; she had been seen in a Jew's shop buying some mens cloaths, and they waited till the Jew returned from the country, where he was gone for a few days, that they might learn some other notice more particular and precise. Reading this

article in the Gazette, I gave no sign of surprize, though I was not at all quiet in my mind. There was in the coffee-house, one of those people called politicians, who observe with more greediness the public paper, than they would the will of some of their relations. He asked me immediately, if I had made any reflection upon what was from Avignon, and what was my opinion of that story? I answered coolly, that such relations as these were in general false, or very much altered; that the Gazette writers, to fill up their paper, make of a fly an elephant; and that if the fact was true of the young woman of Avignon, by the next ordinary post there would be something more, because she could not be able to keep herself long hid. I thought by this, that I had shut the mouth of this news-monger; but he asked me a thousand questions, as if he had known by his smell that I was woman: as good fortune for me would have it, a coach stopped at the door of the coffee-house; I faced about to the person that was within, though I had never seen him in my life before; I gave him my hat, and eluded, by this stratagem, the sagacity of

of the other, who found himself confuted in his suspicions.

# C H A P. VII.

*A Friendship contracted by me at Lyons with Mr. D'Arcore.*

**T**H E person saluted by me at his coming out of his coach, was a young gentleman of about twenty-five years of age; of an open air, and obliging carriage. He returned my salute without shewing himself the least surprised, and as if I had been his friend for many years. After having ordered the coachman to return in an hour, he took me by the hand, and, making me sit down, placed himself opposite to me. Seeing the papers upon the table, he asked me if I had read them, and what news there was? Nothing, Sir, said I, but an account of the flight of a certain girl from a nunnery at Avignon, of which account I am very doubtful, because the writers of the Gazettes, in these barren times of news, catch at any thing for the sake of having something to write. As to that, replied he, the fact is very true; I have several letters from Avignon that mention it: which also say, that pressing orders are sent every

ry where, that all possible search is to be made for that young lady, and that they are to apprehend her, and keep her, wherever she is found. For my part, said he, there is no danger that I shall ever take a thought to look after her, or become a spy, if I could find her. They pretend to say, that she has taken the road to Marseilles, to embark on board some ship for Holland. We may suppose, replied I, that in this flight love has had a part, or that she has been reduced to desperation by some violence? I don't know, said he, as the accounts are so confused and different; all say, that her parents had destined her for a cloyster, and that she was inconsolable on the sudden departure of a gentleman of her acquaintance: let what will be the reason, I am sorry for it; as they write me, that she is a most amiable young lady, and of a spirit superior to her sex: her good qualifications make me compassionate her troubles; and I am sorry that she is not come directly to Lyons, where she should not have wanted protection and reception. I did not lose one word of what he said; and already, upon his pleasing expressions, my vanity flattered me, that I might have reason to hope  
the

the best. Being very happy at having found one that pitied me without knowing me, I seemed to be no longer in danger; because he would have assisted me much more, if I had made myself known to him. With these thoughts I endeavoured to appear chearful. Coffee being brought, he insisted upon my taking another dish to keep him company. Just at this instant came a footman, and said to him, Sir, my lady sent me to ask you, if you will let her have the horse, that she spoke to you about, for twenty pistoles? He answered roughly, No; tell your mistress, from me, that I have changed my mind, and that I will not sell that horse. This is a horse, said he, turning to me, that I wanted to get rid of; and I had sold him to my sister for the half of what he cost me. It is now fifteen days that she has been beating down the price, and now goes increasing it by a crown at a time. Rather than be plagued for such a trifle, I'll take back my horse, and she may provide herself somewhere else. Among the other advices Celistina had got from my landlady, was that of providing a horse, to transport our goods and cloaths, where we pleased, with less expence. I thought on it then. And  
are

are you resolved, said I to my friend, not to sell the horse to your sister? or do you do it out of revenge? He answered me seriously that he would rather give him to any body else than sell him to her; there is nothing that disoblige me more, than her stinginess in making a bargain. Well, said I, if you'll sell him, I'll buy him, as I have just now need of one. With all my heart, replied he; but you must know, that he is better for a coach than for a saddle: I had the pair, and they cost me four hundred crowns; but having lost one, I have never been able to match the one that remains; for which reason, I want to get rid of him. That signifies nothing, replied I, he will serve me to carry my portmanteau; I want to go to Orleans, and that by short journeys, to do some business of mine, and to see, at the same time, the most famous city of Burgundy; and for this route the horse will serve me wonderfully well; and when I have done with him, I can always get for him what he cost me. That's very true, replied he, you think as you ought; nor can you find a better horse for your purpose: let us take another dish of coffee, and then you'll do me the honour to go home



home with me to my house, where you shall see him, and we will agree for him in four words. I imagine that from Orleans you will go to Paris; it is time, at your age, that you had seen that metropolis: there you will make conquests; and, in a country like that, where the handsomeness of a man's person is esteemed, I do not know how you will be able to please some, without disgusting others. Whenever it is so, answered I, I'll contrive to do for the best; and so saying, he made me step into the coach, and conducted me, in his company, to the door of his palace. Stepping out of the coach, I saw immediately that it was not a house belonging to a poor man. We went into a spacious court yard, all paved with marble, surrounded with a double order of pillars, and adorned with four fountains, that threw over, in four great shells of brass, an artificial shower of rain. From thence he conducted me into a hall, adorned with stucco-work, and painted in the highest taste. He then ordered the horse to be brought. Here he is, said he; and I'll maintain him to be without any defect. He looked well to the eye; but to judge of him, and what to make of him, there

there required something more than to know how to scale a garden-wall. As to this, said I, I'll take him upon your word; and be so good as to tell me the price, and you shall be satisfied immediately. I do not look for this now, answered he, and to talk of that we have time enough. It is still very hot, and a good while since we drank coffee; I hope you won't refuse me the honour of tasting a bottle of my wine; and we will drink it iced, that it may be the cooler. I did all possible to excuse myself, but his courteous behaviour prevented my refusal, and I found it necessary to oblige him; and while the wine was cooling in ice, we took a turn in the garden. For a private gentleman, I never saw a more fine and delicious spot: green-houses, shady walks, odorous hedges, a continued carpet in the path embellished with flowers, all things that delighted the sight, and attracted my wonder. In the midst of these delights, and among so many courtesies that I had received, I found myself very much embarrassed. I was afraid that I should not be able to sustain, as I ought, the person of a man before one of so refined a taste, and that he would not let me depart, after having obliged

obliged me so much, without desiring to know something of me, and my condition of life. Being under a necessity to appear as a man of quality, I did not know how to get off, with honour, from a conversation that I had not foreseen, and that seemed to me suspicious. I studied the properest manner to answer any questions of that sort; but, as good fortune would have it, there was no need, as he asked nothing on this head. From the garden we returned to the hall, where I found a magnificent collation prepared. I was obliged to eat and drink to please him; but could not find any opportunity to get away, and more than once I attempted to take my leave, but he still detained me by his obliging behaviour; protesting, that my person pleased him, and that my company gave him the highest satisfaction. We talked on a hundred different things, but nothing on my affairs; and this his civil indifference pleased me more than all the rest. Curious people are frequently very troublesome; discoursing with strangers, they think they have an indisputable right to know all; and they do not reflect, that those who travel in a strange country, have a thousand reasons for telling only what they please.

Being almost night, I hoped at last, that he would permit me to go: but how was I perplexed when I understood, from my obliging and courteous benefactor, that he would have me stay and sup with him. Wait; said he to me; to intice you more, there are certain young ladies and gentlemen, of my acquaintance, persons of merit, condition, and spirit, that are worthy of your friendship, and they will keep you in good conversation, while supping. I was more than half persuaded; but, not knowing where all this civility would end, I was the more desirous to get away. Not succeeding in any excuse, I was obliged at last to confess, that I would have remained very willingly, to oblige him, if an indispensable necessity had not called me to my lodgings. Since it is so, said he, I won't use violence; but if I am to lose your agreeable company, console me for such a loss, by telling me, what indispensable necessity hinders you from staying here. For this there was no remedy; I was obliged to confess, with some repugnance to myself, that my wife was expecting me at home; and that, at my being absent, she would be in continual pain all the night. Your wife, replied

plied he, amazed and surprised, your wife ! I will absolutely have the honour of seeing her : I do not in the least doubt but that she is worthy of you ; and if, at an age so young, you are bound to a woman, one must say, that your choice is praise-worthy. At table we will talk of your adventures ; for the young ladies that are to be here, delight much in such stories : permit me, in the interim, to send my coach to bring her here, because we absolutely will not sup without her. As he was speaking a footman brought him a letter, and he ordered him to bring pen and ink, desiring me to write two lines to my wife, that we were waiting for her, and by that means she could have no difficulty in coming. I complied, as I could not do otherwise ; and together with Celistina he sent for Madam Tavenot, she being known to him before she was married. The coach went, and returned in half an hour. When he heard the coach arrive, he ran to hand out the Countess, my wife ; I did the same to Madam Tavenot, for simple conveniency ; but could hardly refrain from laughter, to see how Celistina received and answered to his compliments. I had time to inform myself

why this gentleman was; she told me, that his name was Monsieur D'Arcone; that he was not a nobleman, but that he was the richest man in the city; and that his chief pleasure consisted in making himself friends, in enjoying good company, and in obliging, by force of benefits, all persons of merit.

## C H A P. VIII.

### *Characters of some ridiculous Persons.*

SOON after they arrived, another Coach stopped at the gate, with some relations and friends of Mons. D'Arcone; who saluted us as familiarly as if we had known each other many years. No person had ever more need of extraordinary presence of mind, than Celistina and myself on this occasion. All women are by nature curious; but these were doubly so; as the more questions they asked, the more they believed they obliged us, by giving us motives for conversation. Celistina was a woman of a good understanding, spoke like an orator; and to joke with gallantry, no one was equal to her. I had had very little practice in the world; but however I was not one of these women that buy glow-worms for lanterns

lanterns, and ask, for want of conversation, if the sea produces corn as well as sand. To answer properly all their questions, I was obliged every moment to rack my invention, and had the good fortune to answer every thing, that was put to me, to the satisfaction of the company in general. Monsieur D'Arcore, after having left us some minutes, returned, saying, Sir, it is time to see if my cook has known how to please you; and, with this joke, made us sit down to supper, which was dressed in the highest taste, and very elegant. I must confess my appetite was diminished greatly, by my apprehensions that Monsieur D'Arcore would begin the discourse upon the story from Avignon; and if the company had observed in me any thing effeminate, I should certainly have been discovered in that meeting. The least talk upon that topic would have put me to the blush; and my bashfulness was sufficient to excite, in others, some suspicions. Supper being over, they began to sing the airs of the opera for that year: Celistina also sung to please the company; and accidentally observing that I understood music, they pressed me so much, that, not to make a ridiculous figure, I tuned an Italian

air, which I had perfectly in my memory. At the first cadence they all clapped their hands; and Mr. D'Arcore cried out, that I had a woman's voice, and that he never heard a more sweet and delicate one than mine. I thought I should have swooned away at these words: I endeavoured to conceal my blushes, by a feigned laugh; and Celistina, to turn the discourse, began to talk about the stuffs that she had bought that day, declaring, that she never had laid out her money to better advantage. There was no occasion for any thing more; the discourse immediately changed, and nothing was talked of but silks, their colours, and fashions. Just in this interim the clock struck twelve, and all were for returning to their own houses; but Mr. D'Arcore would not permit, he having assigned every one their apartment, and we all retired to repose ourselves. My mind was taken up with the thoughts where this extravagant civility would end; it seemed to me, that all was a riddle; and seeing that he distinguished me above all the others, I could not persuade myself that he would use all this distinction to a man; Celistina also could not think otherwise. We talked  
about



about it most part of the night, but without resolving on any thing. When the morning was pretty well advanced, I got up; but Madam Tavenot no sooner heard me up, than she came into my chamber, and asked me, what I thought of our genteel host? I answered her, that I thought him the only one in the world, that made so much of persons that he had never known before. And with all this, said she, he is only the son of a merchant, such as my father was; he has succeeded in business extreamly well, and my father was ruined: this gentleman, being heir, after his father's death renounced his business, and thinks of nothing but enjoying what was left him, but that without ruining himself: he does not spend profusely, but he will have every thing that is necessary. Instead of letting himself be impoverished by a troop of servants, sworn enemies to their masters, he is not desirous of making a great shew of pomp and magnificence; and keeps only a cook, a coachman, and two footmen. He transacts his own business for amusement; and employs neither agent, steward, or secretary; but at his table he will have, both at dinner and supper, three or four dishes  
extra-

extraordinary for his friends. The nobility do not disregard him, because he is not ambitious of being on a par with them. Every one in the city loves him, because he does good to all; and to obtain any favour of him, there is no need to ask it. He has distinguished you, because he knows you to be a stranger, which, with him, is reason sufficient. This is his way of thinking; but he has a sister, who is of a very different opinion: she is altogether as sordid and miserable, as he is generous and good; she had a husband who was president of the parliament, and, by her sordidness, she broke his heart: I shall say no more in favour of that gentleman, only, that he had lined his morning gown with sonnets, printed on silk, that were dedicated to his praise: when the president put on that gown, he was all philosophy and poetry from head to foot. This discourse of Madam Tavenot diverted me much, and Mr. D'Arcore came in, and caught us laughing, without knowing that his sister was the cause of our mirth. Tea was brought in; and when we had drank it, he gave orders that nobody should be admitted to him that morning, because he chose to enjoy my company alone. I do this frequently.

frequently, said he, when I meet with persons of spirit, as you are, with whom I can spend an hour agreeably. I am so plagued with the company of some people, who have nothing but the figure of a man to recommend them, that I had much rather be alone. Would you believe it, Sir, said he, in a large city like this, where interest is the ruling principle, that luxury is sustained by commerce alone? and in this there is no rule, because all endeavour to be equal: I can give you but little account of our nobility, because I do not keep company with them; nevertheless, as I know that my income is not inferior to theirs, I do not esteem myself any ways beneath them, though they have old parchments with antient priviledges, which my family has not; upon this superiority, that they have over me by birth, they think I am obliged to serve them, if they deign to command me: if they ask me to lend them one hundred pistoles, they think they do me a favour; and if I have courage to deny it, my refusal becomes a crime: to have their good opinion and esteem, I must keep open purse at their command; and buy their land at their own price, if they want to sell it: standing  
 out

out with them on a hazardous game, they esteem you honoured by the loss. I consider them as charcoal, that burns or blackens; nor do I find a better way of dealing with them, than by a reserved and complaisant carriage towards them. To pass away my time, I could keep company with women of quality, and divert myself by intrigues and gallantries; but in this, there are also rocks: if they are married, one is liable to the extravagant jealousy of their husbands; if they are virgins, their chief subject of discourse is matrimony; the commerce with certain others of that sex, brings scandal, and becomes not a person of honour; to take a wife against my inclination, would be downright madness: therefore, to live comfortably, I live alone. I am a friend to all, but a slave to none; and when I find one that is of my way of thinking, I find, in such company, all the happiness I desire. Then, Sir, said I, you are either a recluse, or a philosopher. I am neither one nor the other, answered he; I live according to my own taste, and follow my own inclinations: I hate subjection; and will not, on any account, commit violence on my inclinations. When noise and confusion become irksome,

ome, I go into the country ; when solitude is troublesome, I return to the city : in my house, I enjoy the company of my friends, when I find those that are agreeable ; when I have not any to my mind, I spend a few hours, for the sake of diversion, at some coffee-house ; and there is nothing that delights me so much, as the variety of characters which are there to be met with.

If you should stay any time at Lyons, and think proper to go now and then, as I do, to that coffee-house where you found me, you will not envy the diversions of the theatre, or the most cheerful assembly ; for those that know how to philosophise on the actions of mankind, a coffee-house is a continual comedy. You'll here find politicians, who discourse, over a dish of Coffee, of things to come, as if they were present ; they know all that passes in the cabinet ; they declare war, they put armies in the field, besiege ports they take by assault ; they put to the sword twenty or thirty thousand men, without moving from the table at which they sit : they settle the prices of stocks as they think proper : in short, there is nothing which they are not acquainted with. Every new book that comes to light, is liable to their comments ;

ments; nor can it escape criticism. After having made war on all the powers of Europe, they also make it among themselves, and in this alone they are unanimous; every one will obstinately maintain his point. There was in the coffee-house, the other day, an abbot without an abby, who styles himself Marquis, pretending to be a nobleman by birth, that he is intimately acquainted with all the cardinals in Rome, and two or three of them are his relations; he refused a bishopric of four thousand pistoles per Annum: he has been every where; has read every thing: not a lady in Lyons but has courted his confidence; and he spends regularly every day, thirty pistoles in trifles. Would you think, that, with all this self-conceit, and so much parade, the wig that he wears is, at least, ten years old? he dines every day for ten-pence, and spends three-pence more daily, to stun people six hours continually with talk in a coffee-house, spreading these his dreams of grandeur.

I had a great desire to know a person of this odd character; for which reason we went immediately to the coffee-house, where we were in hopes of finding him, it being the hour he usually

ually came at. He was just gone as  
 : came in. We found there however,  
 his stead, a man of letters, who dis-  
 edited all works that were not his own :  
 was disputing upon some points of li-  
 tature with a physician, not less ex-  
 avagant than himself: our coming dis-  
 ncerted them, and sent them away  
 angling. Mr. D'Arcore, taking me  
 de, re-assumed the discourse. He that  
 ent away, seeing me said he, is asham-  
 l, because I know him: at present,  
 : styles himself physician; but, a few  
 ears ago, I saw him in Holland, when  
 : was a quack-doctor. To hear him  
 scourse on physic, he knows more  
 an Hypocrates. Among other things,  
 e master of the coffee-house makes his  
 n write down all that this quack says,  
 id afterward get it by art: with this  
 ipital of erudition, he thinks of send-  
 ing him to Paris; and making him a  
 hyfician, without the assistance of a  
 ollege. It is two years, and more,  
 at that young lad has been writing  
 ich stuff, without learning any thing.  
 his prime physician, his master, has  
 uled more paper than half the authors  
 Europe: as he pretends to know all  
 ings, so he writes on all things at a  
 enture: he has begun a hundred  
 Vol. I. H works,

works, of which even a page has not been seen; but remains imperfect in his study, for the diversion of worms and mice. He is called, Doctor Salamel: his character is not less ridiculous than his surname: he says, and unsays; does, and undoes; will, and will not; in the same moment. In all his propositions, you may see him illiterate; but, by his method of discourse, you may see, above all, the mountebank. I have seen him in company with two sisters, between whom he strutted as if he had had in his company two of the Sybils: they must naturally have been the miserable produce of some stall, or, at most, of some play-house; but to him they are oracles, and he consults them to all his receipts. They pretend to have, in every thing, a taste superior to all the world; but constantly study some new manner to make themselves ridiculous. He does not exercise any of the sciences which he professes; because, in almost all, he has made a very indifferent figure. He undertook the cure of two fevers, and made them become malignant: he was to draw a rotten tooth for a young lady, and, instead of so doing, drew two that were sound. He strove to discredit the tragedy of a man

of



f spirit, before he had read it ; which ragedy, when it appeared, had the public applause : nevertheless, he maintains the justice of his own opinion, and entertains a high conceit of his own judgment. If you still speak to him of that ragedy, and tell him that all the world finds it good ; he will answer you, that all the world are ignorant, and that there cannot be a more wretched performance.

## C H A P. IX.

*The Death of Celistina ; and News of Count Termes.*

**N**Otwithstanding a variety of ideas ran in my head, I heard Mr. D'Arcore with pleasure ; who would have continued his discourse about the physician, had not one of his domestics brought us word that we were wanted at home, and that with all imaginable speed. This message was like a wound in my heart, as I was continually apprehensive of some misfortune. As we went along, a thousand thoughts came into my mind ; and as my flight from Avignon was my only crime, so I was always in fear of being discovered, and punished in some exemplary manner.

What mistaken ideas do we form of futurity ! and how naturally does guilt fix the most dreadful impressions on our mind ! When we were arrived at Mr. D'Arcore's, I met with nothing of what my apprehensions had suggested, but found myself plunged into the most cruel distress that could have happened to one in my circumstances : my poor Celistina had been suddenly taken ill with a most violent cholic, and was reduced to the greatest extremity. The disorder had seized her about half an hour before we came in, and I found her without motion, out of her senses, and not able to utter one word. 'Tis impossible to conceive with what excessive grief this dismal catastrophe afflicted me : I threw myself, crying, upon the bed ; I embraced her, and called her by her name ; but she did not answer ! she seemed not to hear me ; nor could one perceive that she was alive, only by a languid turn of the eye---a fatal sign of the severe convulsions that were tearing her bowels, and hastening her to her last moments ! I have not heart to describe, even now, either her situation or my own, though so many years have passed : my memory presents to my mind that fatal day, which still affects  
me

me with the greatest horror. In vain did we look for succour from the physicians. Mr. D'Arcore did every thing in his power to preserve her life; but, at the end of two hours, my poor Celistina died!—

My grief for her death was so violent, that it was almost impossible for me to preserve that secret which I had hitherto so cautiously observed: I abandoned myself to such despair, that they dreaded the loss of my senses. As it was necessary to take me by force from that room, they put me into a coach and conducted me to a country-house of Mr. D'Arcore's, to which he himself accompanied me. Before I left Lyons, I recommended the care of poor Celistina's funeral to Madam Tavenot, and desired her to pack up every thing that belonged to me, and to send them into the country, from whence I did not intend soon to return. When I was a little recovered from the lethargy, into which deep melancholy had thrown me, and returned, as one may say, into myself; I found myself in a chamber genteelly furnished; from the windows of which, nothing was to be seen but a delightful verdure: Mr. D'Arcore stood by me, and used his utmost endeavours

to console me for the loss of so amiable a wife (as he indeed imagined she was) ; his advice was that of a friend ; and his maxims, those of a true philosopher : I found myself equally obliged by his genteel manners, and convinced by the force of his arguments : but no one knew my situation so well as myself. My principal object was, that not even he should penetrate into the secrets of my heart ; for which reason, I begged he would leave me alone for a short time ; adding, for an excuse, that I found an inclination for a little sleep : upon which he courteously departed, and sent a servant to shut the windows, and the door of the chamber. I threw myself on an easy chair ; not to sleep, which, in my agitation of mind, was impossible, but to vent, with tears, my grief ; and to seek, in my deplorable case, such assistance as reason could best supply me with.

Short sighted maid ! said I, in my heart, dissolving myself in tears, that felicity is soon finished, that thou promised thyself in flying from solitude : it is not a month that thou hast enjoyed that so much wish'd for liberty, and how much trouble hath it already cost thee ! how much agitation, how much bitterness!

itterness ! thou hast hardly touched  
 the threshold of the world, and thou  
 art already lost, upon this threshold,  
 the faithful companion of thy flight,  
 thine only counsellor, thy sure guide in  
 this troubled sea, which for thee has nei-  
 ther shore or bottom ; and where every  
 little blast that blows, menaces thee  
 with certain shipwreck ! without pa-  
 rents, without friends, without advisers !  
 an orphan, under a dress not her own ;  
 abandon'd, wandering, unable what to  
 resolve, what to think, or what to do,  
 not to become hated of thyself ! per-  
 haps thou wilt soon die ; but if thou  
 art still long to live, as thy youth pro-  
 mises, what will be thy lot, as thou hast  
 so little of thy own, and nothing to  
 hope for from others ? if thou pursuest  
 the plan thou hast undertaken, thy ho-  
 nour is in danger ; if thou shouldst re-  
 tract, and return to Avignon, thy li-  
 berty is in danger. Just heavens ! am  
 I to make, in this world, the unhappy  
 figure of a base-born vagabond ? Oh !  
 I will voluntarily shut myself up in so-  
 litude ; there to die forlorn ! In this  
 great and painful choice, reputation in  
 life ought to prevail : what signifies life  
 when one lives to ones shame ? and  
 what durable felicity can one have up-

on earth, when, to attain it, must plunge one into a crime? Agitated by these thoughts, I tossed and turned in the chair, sighing, crying, and sobbing, but without resolving on any thing.

The darkness of the place was suitable to my sadness: the death of Celistina seemed to me a chastisement from heaven, and which, by way of terror, called me to myself: it seemed to me, that with her were finished all my hopes of happiness; since I had no one to assist me in finding that felicity, which I did not hope to find without her. One idea succeeding another, I returned, in my thoughts, to my own retirement; but, in imagination only, I trembled with horror: I found that I could live there, if not more quietly, at least more honourably; but I had not courage to return, because my heart could not condemn itself: I would, and I would not, all in a breath; I would willingly have combined together, honour and liberty; but I did not know how: and at last, after many thoughts for and against, Mr. D'Arcore struck into my mind, as though I must hope from him some relief in my difficult situation; or, at least, some advice. Is it not possible, said I to myself,

self, that this generous friend, who is so kind without knowing me, when he hears the truth of my situation, may be touched with compassion : he delights in doing good for all ; can he desire a more laudable occasion to exercise, in my favour, this his generous talent ? what will it profit him to publish what I am ? and what a risk am I exposed to, if, by preserving in my breast my secret, I do not avail myself of the opportunity of his bounty ? yes, let me speak to him ; let me throw myself at his feet, and lay open to him the secrets of my heart : he is rich, he is young ; he has no wife ; he depends upon none but himself ; he distinguishes me, believing me to be a man ; who knows . . . when he finds me a woman, when he sees me in danger, when he knows that I am destitute, what honesty, inclination, and love, may suggest to him ? In the heat of these reflections, which flattered and pleased me, I got up resolutely from the chair where I was sitting, opening the room door, and went in search of Mr. D'Arcore, to beg his assistance. Having asked one of his servants where his master was to be met with, he told me that he was walking in the garden ; I went to him with a  
firm

firm resolution to throw myself at his feet, and, with tears in my eyes, to discover myself to him, and implore his generous compassion. He did not see me when I accosted him, because he stood with his back to the place I came from, and was reading attentively a paper, which I did not perceive till I was near to him. Sir, I had began to say to him; but he, as though surprised, started, and putting the paper he had been reading into my hand, Take, said he, this letter; you are just come opportunely to read it, and amuse yourself: I received it this moment from Lyons, by the Italian extraordinary post; there is something will make you laugh, in regard to an affair of which we will talk some other time. He said this to divert my thoughts from the death of Celiffina, not because he apprehended that there could be any thing, in that letter, that could excite my curiosity: if he had foreseen that the reading of it would have increased my melancholy, he would not have named it. At the name of Italy, my heart jumped in my breast; nor did I know for why; my hand trembled in taking the letter, as if it foresaw matter of fresh concern, that it would occasion



me : reading it to myself, I found it as follows :

“ Dear Sir,

A few days ago disappeared a young Lady, who was in the retirement of Avignon, there called Miss D'Arville ; as she was the cause of my sudden departure for Italy ; so, I flatter myself, I have been the principal occasion of her flight. From a friend, like you, nothing should be kept secret. I love her tenderly ; and I have certain testimony of having it returned. You will oblige me, if you will cause the most diligent search to be made in France, as I shall also pursue the same measures in Italy, if ever she should have gone for this part. I send you a billet that I preserved of her writing, which may possibly be of service ; but cannot, at present, extend the advantage which might ensue, from giving you a more exact description of her person, as I am actually obliged to keep my bed, from a slight wound received last week under Tortona. The moment I am permitted I shall write you more ; in the mean time, I rely on your goodness, and am,

Devotedly,

TERMES.

## C H A P. X.

*New Trouble to my Spirit; and Motives  
to depart from Lyons.*

**I**T is more easy to be imagined than described, how I remained after reading this letter : a thousand ideas rushed into my mind ; of fear, of trouble, of compassion, and of love ! The memory of the Count of Termes, seemed like a fire stifled among ruins ; which took at once, in my breast, its former activity and vigour. In so long a time that I had heard no news of him, he now and then came into my mind ; but this remembrance wore off gradually, and gave me neither consolation or trouble. On seeing the writing, and hearing his sentiments, it presented him in the most lovely form to my eyes and soul ; as amiable as ever I had seen him : I was sorry for the distance he was from me : his love gave me pleasure ; his wound made me pity him : I was vexed I had not taken the direct road for Italy, to overtake him : I thought that would be the best step I could take, which it would be easy for me to succeed in, even by myself ; and the discovering myself to Mr. D'Arcore, would be the same as dis-

dishonouring myself; and, without his assistance, I could get to Italy, and find out the Count; I was therefore determined to use the best means I was able to prevent his knowledge of my plan.

These, and a thousand other thoughts, passed in my mind; but my greatest trouble was, how to conceal my confusion from Mr. D'Arcore. Having read the letter, I returned it to him, smiling: he asked me, what I thought of it? I replied, that, at the first time he had mentioned that affair, at the coffee-house, I had foretold that it was so; and that love was generally the first occasion of such adventures. I should have been glad to have dropt this discourse, lest some involuntary change in my countenance might betray my heart; but, as he still continued it, any interruption of mine might have been suspected: I therefore asked him, what he intended to do, to serve his friend? to which he answered, that he would write to all his acquaintance; but that he judged it would be to no purpose, because, if Miss D'Arville was a lady of spirit, she had taken the direct road to Italy. I was very willing he should think so, for which reason I chose not to contradict him. We entered into a

a shady walk ; and Mr. D'Arcore, who studied all methods to divert me, related to me, a similar story of a young English lady, who had eloped from London, a few years ago, and who was known by him, at Lyons, as she was going to Paris. The story was long, and the circumstances entertaining ; but I took so little notice of what he told me, that, at present, I have only a confused idea of it : I, in the mean time, was thinking only of my own affairs, and believed myself sufficiently justified, by my situation, to recede from those measures, which, a few minutes before, I intended to have taken. I had, presented myself to Mr. D'Arcore, fully resolved to acquaint him with my case, because I thought it consistent with my honour ; I had hardly read the letter, but my honour suggested to me quite the contrary ; and though I used my utmost endeavours to hide it from him, my love had almost got the better of my reason, and drawn from me a confession of the whole. In truth, the more I studied to regulate myself, according to the dictates of reason, the more I was perplexed : I was sensible that I loved the Count of Termes tenderly ; and, pleased with the concern  
that

hat he shewed for me, was resolved to  
 seek for him in Italy; but, upon re-  
 flection, I should have died rather than  
 have discovered, to Mr. D'Arcore, the  
 secret movements of my soul: in a  
 word, I was weak, because I was a wo-  
 man; but I would not appear such, be-  
 cause my honour was at stake. These  
 struggles in my mind arose from a laud-  
 ble principle of virtue, by which I was  
 convinced, that it became me to con-  
 ceal my weakness. In this I made the  
 fundamental maxims of my philosophy  
 consist; reflecting, that the antient  
 philosophers were no more than men,  
 though they studied to become superior  
 to the vicissitudes of human nature.  
 Such were my thoughts, while Mr.  
 D'Arcore was attempting to divert me  
 with his discourse; and mentioning,  
 accidentally, the Count of Termes, he  
 asked me, if, in my coming from Italy,  
 I had not passed through Avignon? and,  
 if I there had known him, or, at least,  
 heard him named? I had told Mr.  
 D'Arcore, from the beginning of our  
 acquaintance, that I was, by birth, an  
 Italian, as had been agreed, between  
 myself and Celistina, before we arrived  
 at Lyons; and this question of his was  
 so ways unreasonable; I frankly denied  
 I\_2 having

having ever heard of such a person, because my situation obliged me so to do : but, to a sincere friend, every lye, tho' ever so insignificant, must cost some blushes: to this question of his, and much more to the answer, my face was like scarlet; nor could I find a better excuse, to hide it from him, than by taking out my handkerchief, as if to wipe from my face the sweat, occasioned by the heat of the weather. This pretext seemed to succeed to my wish; and I was certain, that Mr. D'Arcore had not any suspicion. In pulling out my handkerchief, something seemed to fall out of my pocket upon the ground; but I did not regard it, having other things at heart. We had advanced a few steps forward, and were turning back, when Mr. D'Arcore stooped to take up something from the ground; and, rising, said to me, Is this piece of gallantry fallen from your pocket? I was wondering at the meaning of his words, when, to my surprize, I saw, in his hand, the snuff-box with the Gount of Termes' picture, given, by him, to me at Avignon: I knew that it was customary for me to keep it in my pocket, to prevent it from falling into any one's hands; but the accidents of that day had  
so

so much engrossed my attention, that it might easily fall from my pocket without my perceiving it. I know not how it was that I did not drop down at his feet, with the confusion of being caught in a manifest lye, of my sex being discovered, and of being exposed to the most pungent reproof. A simple act of civility, pardonable in a friend, had almost ruined me, if Mr. D'Arcore had been induced to open that box: any other woman, in my case, would have given cause of suspicion: it is true, I was much troubled; but all my trouble was internal: as to the external, I had extraordinary presence of mind, and, with the greatest difficulty, took the box out of his hand: looking at it, as if I had scarcely known it, I answered, Yes, Sir, it is mine; but I wish it was not (at the same time putting it in my pocket) for it has cost me many a sigh: this induced him to believe that the inside contained the picture of some favourite young lady of my acquaintance, and prevented him from opening it; by which means he would have found that of Count Termes. I could not avoid answering several questions which he put to me on this head; but I brought myself off very well.

Among other things, bantering me upon the cruelty of my supposed mistress, he desired, as a favour, to see the picture, that he might be satisfied whether she merited my love. I did not keep him long in suspense; but opened the box in such a manner, that he could only see the picture of Miss Termes, while that of the Count, her brother, remained hid. The box was made in such manner, that only one at a time could be seen, which was owing to the particular method of opening it. Mr. D'Arcore was fully satisfied at my readiness to oblige him, nor did he suspect the least deceit. Nevertheless I thought myself in continual danger, should I remain much longer with him; therefore at the expiration of a few days, during which time, nothing worth mentioning occurred, I, at last, without disgusting him, got leave to depart, with pretence, that I had some concerns that obliged me to be at Paris. My thoughts were really turned towards Italy; but it was highly necessary to conceal my real intentions. Being about bargaining with my friend for a horse, as abovementioned, I desired to know the price; but he obliged me to accept him, with a small easy chair, under which he used  
to



to harness him for travelling the country ; and added, that we would agree about the price when I came back. Before I set out, he ordered a large trunk, with my cloaths, to be fastened behind the chaise ; then handed me into it, and put the reins into my hand, telling me, that the road to Paris was straight forward, and to let the horse go of himself : he desired me to remember him, and to return soon, according to my promise. The last farewell cost us both some tears ; and when we parted, he looked after me till I was out of sight ; nor did I know how necessary his presence was to me, till I found myself far off.

## C H A P. XI.

*My first Acquaintance with Mr. Dulis ; and  
an Account of his Adventures.*

**I**T is impossible for any one to conceive the perplexing circumstances which attended me on this journey : I saw myself alone, on a road that I had never been on before, with a whip and reins in my hand, and a high-mettled horse which required judgment to manage him properly. The road was  
straight

straight and good, but I feared much that it would not continue so all the way; I frequently met with other carriages, the avoiding and giving place to which was such a trouble to me, that it made me tremble through fear of breaking my neck: the horse, without being whipped, went on with vigour; but I should have been glad he had not gone so fast, the better to be able to manage him at my pleasure. The only consolation I had in finding myself alone, was, to be able to think on my circumstances as much as I pleased. I knew that I was in the road to Paris, and desired to be in that to Italy; but how to return back, without passing by Lyons and Mr. D'Arcore's country-seat, I could not tell; and being seen again by him, I must appear, in his eyes, either an impostor or a liar. To maintain a character that was not real, I was obliged to act contrary to my own inclinations; for a compliment to so courteous a friend, I prolonged the time of seeing a tender lover, with whom I could have changed my condition, and avoided the many troubles which I should be obliged to suffer by living so many years at a distance from him. However I advanced towards Paris, in hopes that I should

should have found, upon the road, some opportunity of forwarding my intended journey to Italy. Besides the danger I was exposed to, as a woman, being alone, a fugitive, and a wanderer; it was needful that I should think of travelling with the greatest oeconomy, not knowing what might happen to me; and that I ought always prudently to provide against all accidents. Traveling on, accompanied with such thoughts, I found myself, towards night, in a large village between Lyons and Mafson, ten leagues distance from where I departed in the morning. Here I saw, upon the left hand, the sign of the white horse, which seemed, by the outward appearance, to be a pretty good inn; I stopped at the door, and a servant came to me, who took hold of the bridle of the horse, and led him into the yard. After I alighted, I went to see the horse taken to the stable and fed, in order to make myself conversant in many things that I then was unacquainted with, that I might be less puzzled how to act hereafter. When the horse was rubb'd down, and the chaise put up, I ordered the waiter to carry my portmanteau into my room. Passing through a lodge, I observed a person whose

whose appearance pleased me much, I enquired of the maid, if there was any gentleman in the house that would sup, and spend the evening with me? she informed me, that there was no one but that merchant whom I had seen in passing; but that he was an honest man, well known at that inn, and that my company would be very agreeable to him. I sent my compliments to him, desiring the favour of his company to supper; which he returned with great civility, and informed me, by the servant, that he would wait upon me immediately; he accordingly was with me in a few minutes. When supper was brought in, we sat down, and eat with a hearty appetite. This gentleman came from Paris, and was called Duli; at every two mouthfuls, he drank a large glass of the best wine that the inn afforded; he was either naturally very talkative, or the wine had made him so; for without my asking him, he began to inform me of his own private concerns, as if I had known him many years: he told me, he had a wife and nine children, but that he had seen none of them for several years; and that, perhaps, he should never see them more. This excited my curiosity to ask him

him the reason; and he readily proceeded as follows:

I am, said he, by birth, an Italian, and traded in timber, in company with a friend of mine, a rich merchant of my own country. Going together, from Venice to Leghorn, about our own business, with a large sum of twenty-five thousand livres, which we were to disburse for a correspondent of ours, it happened, that we remembered we had some affairs to transact upon the road, for which my partner was obliged to return back: I, therefore, went to Leghorn alone, with the sum of money that was to disburse; and my first concern was to find my correspondent, in order to give it to him; but, unfortunately for me, he was out of town, and was not to return for several days. I don't know what malignant planet had the ascendant over my mind at that time; I was in a capacity to maintain my family honourably; my profits were considerable; and, in my own country, I had the character of a man of honour. My wife was also very amiable, and I tenderly loved my children. Notwithstanding this, a thought came into my mind, that strikes me with horror at the remembrance; and this hurried me into

one

one of the most extravagant resolutions in the world. Seeing myself master of the twenty-five thousand livres, a frolic came into my head, to go and trade in the Indies; hoping there to make an immense fortune. I found, in the port, a vessel ready to set sail for Holland; I embarked in her, and went to Ostend; and from thence, on board of a Dutchman, I set sail for Batavia. Imagine what were the thoughts of my correspondents and family, at not hearing any news of me: they concluded, I had been assassinated on the journey. My creditors reduced my family to the most extreme distress; and my poor wife gave herself up to the most deplorable melancholy. While they were lamenting my supposed death in Italy, I was trading in the Indies, racked with the severest stings of conscience; and the fatal consequences of this voyage, began already to denounce vengeance against me. Since I had destroyed the fortunes of those most dear to me, I should, at least, have made my own; but this did not happen, because my own conscience was my greatest enemy. Agitated continually by internal remorse for my crime, I had not resolution to take proper care of any thing, that

That could redound to my advantage.  
 I was no sooner got to the Indies, than  
 I looked for an opportunity to return  
 to Europe. I was no sooner re-  
 turned, than I found myself ashamed to  
 revisit my afflicted family, to appease  
 their grief, and console them at least  
 with a certainty of my being alive: the  
 notion I had been guilty of gave me  
 great trouble, and I was afraid of being  
 pressed by my creditors: the money, that  
 I had taken with me in my flight, was  
 greatly diminished; nor was there  
 enough left to heal the old wound,  
 much less to remedy the future wants.  
 The best that I could do, in such a si-  
 tuation, not to be reduced to extreme  
 misery, was to begin to trade in Hol-  
 land with the little I had left. Immedi-  
 ately upon my return from Batavia, I  
 changed my name, and borrowed that  
 by which you have heard me called in  
 this house. I bought some merchan-  
 dize of all sorts, and loading them up-  
 on a horse, carried about with me my  
 shop of goods. With this I go from ci-  
 ty to city, and from town to town, to  
 get a livelihood; nor should I be dis-  
 contented with this manner of life, if,  
 now and then, the thoughts of my fa-  
 mily did not awaken the torment of my  
 mind. I am confident to the private

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concerns of a certain great Princess at Paris; and have thoughts of throwing myself at her feet, that she may employ her interest to restore me, without danger, to my family and country. When she was at Rome, about eighteen years ago, she lodged in my house, and was there brought to bed of a daughter; of which I shall say nothing more, only, that there was need of my secrecy. She is under obligations to help me; but when I was at Paris I had not courage to present myself to her: thus I went, more desirous than ever, to see my family once more; and through my bashfulness, in not applying to that Princess, was obliged to withdraw myself, and leave them in the false opinion that I am no more amongst the living. In this manner Duli discoursed, partly in Italian and partly in French, according as the wine operated. This short and confused account had made me curious of a thousand little things by him done and mentioned; but though he would talk about himself and family, for hours together, of his own accord, he did not seem inclineable to answer my questions; and I found that I was to take what he gave me, without looking for more. When we were risen from table, he insisted



isted upon shewing me his goods; from which I should find, that he had made considerable advantage by trading, in his portable shop. Among other things, on opening a little case where he had some jewels of value, he shewed me the picture of a lady, set round with brilliants, which attracted my eye; and my curiosity led me to ask who was the original? This is, says he, the picture of the princess, whom I mentioned a while ago, who, before I was married, and my mother still living, lodged almost two months secretly in my house, and there lay in of a daughter, without a word of it being known in Rome, and which I never mentioned to any body except yourself; so saying, he took the picture hastily out of my hand, and locked it up again in the box, asking me, if I would not buy some of his goods? As my poor Celistina had provided, at Lyons, several sorts of merchandize to sell, which now were only an incumbrance to me, I told him, that I was rather induced to sell than to buy; and that if he would give me what they cost me, I wouldsell him a good bargain of some fine stuffs which I had bought. He gladly accepted the offer, and we went into my room; where, upon see-

ing the goods, he was very well contented, paid down the money, and retired to go to bed.

## C H A P. XII.

*A Present made me by Mr. D'Arcore ;  
with a Letter from him, which con-  
fused me much.*

**I**N turning over my portmanteau, I was much surpris'd at finding a small case, which I had not taken notice of before : in presence of Duli, I did not show my surprize, but, when he was gone, I opened it with impatience ; and I found, to my great astonishment, a gold snuff-box, a diamond ring, a silk purse with one hundred Louisd'ores, and a letter from Mr. D'Arcore, which was as follows :

“ Dear Friend,

I take the liberty, in this manner, with the sincerity of my heart, to present you with a few trifles which you will find here annexed when you are far from me, and which, I am certain, in person you would have refused. I use this reserve with you, because I have strong motives to believe that you have not been fully sincere with me. Perhaps  
I have

I have not merited your confidence; nevertheless, I shall ever esteem you: and certainly my discretion will merit your gratitude.

I am, &c.

D'ARCORE.

I do not know whether I was more disturbed at the generosity of this worthy gentleman, or surpris'd at the clear notice that he gave me of knowing me to be the lover of Count Termes, or, at least, that he did not believe me to be what I had told him.

This letter was like a clap of thunder; it struck me motionless and precipitated me into an abyss of confusion. Those rich gifts, though they made a considerable addition to my little stock, gave me no pleasure, because they seemed like so many reproofs for my ingratitude. My greatest consolation always had been, that of believing that no one was privy to my affairs; and in flattering myself, that nobody could have known me for a woman, if I did not discover it myself: by Mr. D'Arcore's letter I was robbed even of that comfort; and though he seemed discreet enough not to convince me that he had discovered my true state, yet I

was uneasy through fear of being convinced by some other person. The letter from Mr. D'Arcore might have been interpreted in a very different light; but those that are conscious of any fault, always fear the worst. The accusation laid against me being so dubious, I thought immediately of some reply to justify myself; but it was difficult to find a remedy that was not worse than the disease: I was resolved not to confess the truth, because I had already gone too far to recede; and, as my reputation was at stake, I could not think upon a better remedy than to interpret his complaint in a different sense, and to justify myself by pretending not to understand him.

After many reflections, I conceived in my thoughts a letter, in answer, that seemed quite apropos; and I resolved to leave the letter at the inn, that it might be sent to Lyons by the first opportunity. I had scarce began to write, when fortunately I recollected, that Mr. D'Arcore had in his hands a letter of mine, sent him by Count Termes, enclosed in that letter he had shewn me in the garden. Poor me! exclaimed I, trembling, what shall I do? I shall be condemn'd by my own hand writing;  
and

and who knows but this is the net that Mr. D'Arcore has spread on purpose to confront the letters together, and, from the uniformity of the characters, to find out the truth of what he has, perhaps, at present, only a slight suspicion? Thus was I in a worse dilemma than before, from which I could find no way to extricate myself. Gratitude, civility, and the desire that I had of justifying myself, required, by all means, that I should answer that letter, and contradict the accusation. The necessity I was under not to betray myself, forbade my writing it with my own hand. By the hard alternative of being ungrateful to the person who had been so kind to me, or of being cruel to myself, there was no method but to answer Mr. D'Arcore, in a civil and prudent manner, by some other hand. The more I thought of this scheme, the better I approved of it : his receiving a letter of mine, without knowing it for another hand, and finding that it was not uniform with the characters of the other letter, would, at least, confuse him in his first suspicions. Without appearing to understand his complaint, I justified myself sufficiently ; whereas the putting myself upon the negative,

or

or not giving him any answer at all, would certainly make him still more suspicious. All the difficulty consisted in finding a person to write the letter in my stead, and not give cause of suspicion to the writer of it. As I was afraid of every shadow, so I was cautious that all my actions should be natural, simple, and plain, that they might bear the nicest scrutiny. After many contrivances, one occurred to me that seemed more natural than the rest: with the point of a pen-knife I slightly cut my right thumb, and then called for somebody to come up. Duli was not yet in bed, but was making up his accounts relative to his business: he was the first that came into my room; and seeing my hand bloody, asked, what was the matter? I answered him, that I had cut myself slightly in mending a pen; but that the cutting my thumb did not trouble me much as the not being able to answer a letter, of great importance to me, which I intended to dispatch the next morning to Lyons: so saying, I put a silk handkerchief about my hand, to keep up the credit of my wound; and he, without desiring to see it, answered me, that, as there was no harm done, he would be my secretary, and write

write the letter. This was just what I wanted ; I accepted the offer with a thousand thanks, and dictated the letter in the manner I proposed, desiring him to take me a copy of it to keep for my satisfaction, as I used to do on every occasion : this being done, we retired to sleep. At break of day Duli was ready for his journey, and waked me to take his leave ; I also got up soon after, and called the landlord to settle my expences : in that moment the courier passed by that was going to Lyons, and I gave him the letter directed to Mr. D'Arcore, desiring him to deliver it immediately on his arrival. While he was refreshing his horses, he informed me which was the most easy and least expensive method for me to take in my journey to Italy, to which place my heart was turned ; but I learnt by him, that on the road to Paris I should not find any opportunity to go such a journey ; and that at Paris I need not fear succeeding, as there are always people going to Italy, either by sea or land, with whom I could easily get there. I was then under the necessity of going to Paris : that metropolis excited my curiosity ; and being provided with a horse and chaise of my own, I did not  
think

think I was so unprovided of cash, but that I should be able to spend part for my diversion. The liberty which I assumed, under the character of a man, delighted me so much, that I was really unhappy at not being such, that I might be able to enjoy it without danger. Thus did I fix a resolution to proceed to Paris, and there take, if necessary, new measures. My chaise was soon made ready, and the guiding it did not seem so strange to me as at first; so, without thinking of any thing else, I proceeded on my way. About twelve o'clock, on the third day, I arrived at Dijon; and having resolved not to proceed any further that day, I ordered dinner to be got ready, while I went to view that fine city. Being in the market-place, every body looked after me, and I judged that, by this, they took me to be a woman: to be certain whether it was so or not, I stopped at a gun-smith's shop, to look at some fire-arms of a curious neat make; the shopkeeper, seeing me stop, asked me, if I would buy a pair of pistols mounted with silver, of very fine workmanship? As I travelled alone, I thought them a necessary accoutrement; but what, above all, induced me to buy



by them, was the thought of imposing on  
 those that had observed me, and making  
 them believe me to be a man. If they should  
 have the least doubt. I contracted for the  
 price, which was five Louisd'ores, and  
 desired that they might be tried in my  
 presence; not so much because I doubt-  
 ed, or that I could be able to decide  
 on their goodness, as to learn how they  
 were loaded, and how to avail myself  
 of them, in case of need. I did not  
 want either spirit or courage; but I  
 wanted experience of the world, and  
 as I was endeavouring to procure.  
 The gun-smith loaded the pistols and  
 fired them off; I did the same, and fire-  
 d them off a second time without fear,  
 being not a little proud of my heroism:  
 I then ordered the gun-smith to load  
 them with ball; which being done, I  
 put them into my pocket, and went  
 away very well pleased with the feigned  
 personage I had represented with so  
 much valour: in fact, I was deceived  
 in my conjectures; for I was soon in-  
 formed, that the people observed me  
 with so much attention, because they  
 took me for one of the comedians that  
 opened the theatre there the preceding  
 night, and who had gained some ap-  
 plause by their comedy. On my re-  
 turn to the inn, I stopped at a book-  
 seller's

feller's shop, and bought the Gazette; and when I got home to my room, sat down to read it. Under the date of Avignon, they still continued to mention my flight; the Jew, who sold the cloaths to Celistina, had been put in prison; but they had afterwards released him, not having been able to gain any intelligence. Now am I in fresh trouble, for fear of being followed and taken: I had not finished reading it, when in comes a postilion with a post-chaise, and behind it four persons on horseback, that served as a guard.

My heart beat with fear that they were people who came after me; but that was over in a moment, seeing a comely gentleman get out of the chaise, to whom all the others made a low bow, as if to a person of distinction. When he arrived, he asked, if there was any company in the inn? and was answered, that there was a young gentleman arrived that morning. This notice obliged me to take courage, and go in person to pay him my compliments; he received me courteously, asking me, if I had dined? and answering him, that I had not; he said, then we will dine together.

## C H A P. XIII.

*New Adventures at Dijon.*

**I**T is here necessary to observe, that in France it is the custom, among travellers, to make every one a confidant of their own affairs; or that I always met with people who were fond of talking much: I was very backward in speaking of myself; but the foreigner above-mentioned, without my desiring him, told me, that he was Don Genaro Coranni, agent to the Neapolitan Prince, who was going to Paris by sea; but that he had dispatched him, by land, to prepare a house for him. Being surprised at the train and equipage he travelled with, I confessed, that I should have taken him for a prince. No, replied he, I am only a servant; but as my master loves oeconomy in every thing, so, not to prejudice his character, in my travelling, am fond of spending largely, to do him the more honour. This maxim seemed extraordinary; but it was not my place to find fault with it. In the mean time dinner was brought; and, during dinner, to make the better appearance, I asked him, where he had left the allied army?

he told me, he had left them incamped near Milan; but that he knew little about them, having such an hatred to war that he could not bear to hear it talked of. He asked me, if I was also going to Paris? To prevent being obliged to travel with him, I answered, that I was returning from thence. I am sorry for it, said he, as I would very willingly have taken you post in my chaise, to keep me company: your person and conversation are such, that I like you as well as the finest woman I ever paid my addresses to; and I have, in my time, courted several very handsome ladies. If you are travelling for your diversion only, you may as well return with me to Paris, I will carry you at the expence of my master; and, at his expence, I will take you with me, at my return, to Italy; and you will not have reason to think my company disagreeable. An opportunity more favourable to my design, could not have offered; but his saying that he had taken to great a liking to me, was sufficient to make me refuse it. I returned him a great many thanks for his kind offer; but pretended to have some affairs in hand, that did not permit me to accept it. My love and interest made

made this refusal very disagreeable to me; but my honour, and character, required it. And these were always the rules of my conduct. Though so fine an opportunity to go to Italy I might, perhaps, never find again; it grieved me to let it slip; but my sex, and circumstances, obliged me not to be intimately acquainted with any one.

When Don Gennaro had dined, he departed. I had fixed my departure for the next morning; and to pass away the evening, I recollected that there was to be a comedy performed that night, and resolved to go to see it. This was the first time I ever put my foot in a theatre; of which I had no other notion than what I had got by reading. So many objects, that I had never seen, delighted me; but I was soon tired of remaining a simple spectator of what was doing, and wanted to get behind the scenes to acquire a farther knowledge. On my going to the entry that led to the stage, I found a young fellow waiting there for admission, who attended the company in quality of hair-dresser; he bowed, and let me enter first; then asked me, if I was looking for any body there? having told him I wanted nothing, but to know more particular-

ly the actors, that were so highly applauded; Heavens preserve you! Sir, cried he, don't cover to be acquainted with people of this stamp; I do not speak of the profession in general, but from this company, in particular, keep yourself as far off as possible; as, Gil Blas says, in his adventures, "Keep yourself far from the seven mortal sins." He observing that his discourse gave me pleasure, went on, cursing his bad fortune that he had embarked in the troop from which he got his maintenance; if you desire to form a proper idea of it, added he, I will give it you, Sir, in four words; This company, what is it? It is composed of ten people, every one of a different country, and every one the vilest dregs of those countries: imagine, from such a society of rascals, what good can be gained; impiety, fraud, imposture, and scheming, are the soul of this body; they care, for hatred; prosecute, for love; at one time, are like brothers, at another sworn enemies; ever ignorant, ever presumptuous, ever slanderous and liars: the person you see there is called Tartar; he acts the part of a merry-andrew, and is a rascal that will stick at no villainy, provided he can execute it to his interest:

interest: the other is Madam Tartar, his sister, who thinks herself the most accomplished actress in the world: if you are disposed to laugh, I will help you to a sight of Madam Palandra, who is fifty years of age, and will not fit any other part than that of a young blooming girl: and you will see, at the same time, Madam Papone, who reckons, among her admirers, the emperor of China. So saying, he took me into a room contiguous to the scene, at the door of which my conductor was stopped by one who stormed at him most outrageously, because he had not curled his tupee.

I ventured a little farther into the room, and the young man I met at the door soon found me out. As he had just before met a mighty important person, who was declaiming against the neglect of the actors in their duty, because they had left the stage four or five minutes, I asked him who that person was? By the haughtiness of his carriage, and the lofty airs of commanding and threatening, I imagined he was the head of the company, or the master of the theatre. Not at all, Sir, said he, he has no other employ than to stand at the door; but, as he enjoys the protection of

the head of this company, every thing he does is right, and every body trembles at his appearance: I knew him at, Paris when he had ten sols a night at the King's theatre, and was so very miserable, that he was really the picture of hunger itself: at present he is very little better; but as he is like a great bladder, so he swells with wind; and, important as he seems to be, he is nothing but voice. My conductor, finding that I was desirous of going, and knowing me to be a stranger, offered to accompany me home; and as it was late in the evening, and I knew but little of the streets, I accepted his offer. On the way, he diverted me with the characters of all the people who composed that company, which was the most esteemed in France; he knew their extraction, lives, and transactions, as well as if he had been at their birth, or had wrote their history.



## C H A P. XIV.

*My first Acquaintance, at Troyes, with  
the Duke of \* \* \* \**

THE next morning I departed from Dijon, and, after three days travelling, in which nothing worthy of notice occurred, I arrived at Troyes, and put up at the bell inn, at which place the Duke of \* \* \* \* had arrived a few minutes before me. His servants were then carrying his baggage up stairs, and he was wishing some gentleman might come in to bear him company : as soon as they saw me, they went on to let him know, that a young gentleman, of genteel appearance, was arrived, who might probably be agreeable to him : he directly sent his gentleman to invite me to supper with him. This affability, in a person of his character, surprised me : I had heard him named, several times, as one well respected at court ; but I never imagined I should have received such an honour from him. The appearing as a man in the world, delighted me more than ever : since it procures me all these advantages, said I, I am resolved to see how this courteous invitation will finish.

On

On my way to his chamber, I studied how to present myself before him in such a manner as should merit his favour. At my entering the door, facing which he was sitting, Is it true, said I, that your Grace sent for me to sup with you? If it was not true, said he, laughing, I should not have sent to tell you so. Before doing me such an honour, added I, your Excellency should have given me some occasion to merit it. Put the Excellency away, replied he; I do not love ceremony when at court, much less in private company: sit here: who are you? from whence do you come? where are you going? My name, said I, is Henry Richard; I come from Lyons; and am going to Paris. Very well, added the Duke, that I like; a few words, and significant: in the same precise manner I should also have answered the King. Supper being brought, I would have placed myself on his left hand; but, No, no, said he, sit facing of me, that I may not be at the trouble of turning my head to look at you. I obeyed without any apologies. The table was laid with the greatest magnificence, as it was customary for him to carry with him, in travelling, his own plate. At the

he first mouthful that he eat, he cried,  
 long live my cook; I know very well  
 that I do, by taking him along with  
 me always; he is capable of making  
 me live well, if I was ever in the de-  
 serts of Arabia. Two footmen conti-  
 nually attended at his elbow; the one  
 poured out water, the other wine, but  
 the latter was chiefly employed. Every-  
 one that he drank; they also presented  
 to me; my stomach could not stand  
 his deluge; I took more water than  
 wine, and did but wet my lips. The  
 Duke, perceiving it, said, You drink  
 like a girl. I was red with the shame  
 of being really such. But do not blush;  
 added he, drink plentifully, and help  
 yourself as you please; I love every bo-  
 dy should have their liberty. When  
 the dessert was put on the table, he  
 pressed me to talk, and tell him some  
 story. This was a thing at which I  
 felt great repugnance, but however I  
 did not lose my courage; I gave him  
 an account of myself, telling him, I  
 was the son of a very good family, that  
 my father had left me very little to  
 depend on; that I had put together what  
 little money I had, to go to Paris, and  
 there to try my fortune. The Duke  
 then asked me, if no love adventures  
 had

had happened to me? because my person made him imagine that I had made; e're this, many conquests. To please him, and colour my deceit, I judged it necessary to try my invention; and told him, as if it had happened to me, a story which I had heard from Count Termes some time ago. Some months past, said I, being at Leghorn, I lodged in the house of an old lady, who was very ugly, and who had fallen desperately in love with me. It did not signify my pretending not to understand her. Early one morning I went into her bed-chamber, to let her know I should not dine at home that day; she was still in bed, and, with the excuse of assisting me for a pinch of rappee, she caught me fast by the hand, and began to declare her passion for me, in such a manner, that I found myself at a loss how to answer her. I excused myself a long time, in the civilest manner I could; but this not succeeding, I thought best to free myself at once, by confessing, I could not possibly find in my heart to love her, being already prepossessed in favour of another. There required nothing more, to add jealousy to love; she gave way to the most horrible revenge, and even threatened me, that,

if

I did not resolve immediately on a return of her love, she would call her husband, and, in his presence, would accuse me of going to use violence with her. The threat struck me with horror, when I reflected on the danger I was exposed to, from the resentment of an old jealous husband. Finding her thus determined, I had recourse to deceit; I pretended, by little and little, to comply with her desires; and, as if I had been suddenly taken with a fit, desired her to order a little water to be brought me. The good old woman relieved it, and called the maid, who brought the water. I drank it against my will, and, before the maid departed, saluted the mistress with the greatest civility in the world, and went away, without her being able to make any complaint. Well done, says the Duke, give us drink, that water deserves to be celebrated with a glass of wine. I was obliged to drink a glass for company. He praised my presence of mind, that I had withdrawn myself, by that presence, from an accusation which, by the appearance of the maid, had no more force. He asked me, how I came off afterwards? I answered him, that I contented myself with the loss of some  
of

of my baggage not to see her more, but embarked for **Marseilles** on my return to France. I never made a more agreeable journey than this, added I, there being, in the vessel, two very handsome lasses, who merited all my attention to gain their hearts. I could not succeed to get them alone, as the captain of the vessel, to whom they were recommended, never let them be out of his sight. However, I continued to serve them with an incredible attention; contenting myself, that my eyes should speak to them in my favour. Notwithstanding all this, I thought myself certain of a conquest; and imagined I touched heaven with my finger, when I arrived at kissing their hands. The day that we dropped anchor before **Marseilles**, I asked one of them, in secret, where they were going to lodge? who answered, that she did not know, but that they were both singers. Very good! said the Duke, you was fallen into good hands; but let us drink a glass of Burgundy to their health, and let me hear if you behaved with them like a man of spirit. Before they left the ship, continued I, my adventurers gave me a paper, in which they inform'd me where their lodging was to be. The next day,

day, towards evening, I went to pay them a visit, and ordered a handsome supper to be brought there. I staid with them till the night was far advanced; and when I was about to go away, they begged of me to return the next morning betimes, because they had a favour to beg of me. I immediately foresaw what it would be, but made myself ignorant, desiring them to speak freely what they wanted, and that they should be served to the utmost of my power: in a word, the captain of the vessel wanted to be paid their passage, and they had not a farthing to pay him. Why did not you tell me of this on board the ship? said I, and I would have made him note the payment to the account of the subjection in which he held you, and the liberty he took to deprive me of your favours: enough said; we'll see each other to-morrow. With this I went away, nor did they see me more.

The Duke extolled to the skies my method of proceeding, in not suffering myself to be imposed upon by people of that sort; and he also drew their characters in his manner, little different from the account given me by the hair-dresser of the comedians at Dijon.

Hence it was, that I then conceived such an aversion to players, as if my heart foretold that some misfortunes would happen to me through their means. On his getting up from table to go to bed, the Duke protested he had conceived an esteem for my person. If I can serve you in any thing, said he, command me; in me you will find something more than words: as you will pass by Fontainbleau, you will do me a pleasure by coming to see me: it is now time to go to bed. So wishing me a good night, he retired.

#### C H A P. XV.

##### *My Arrival at Fontainbleau, and afterwards at Paris,*

I Had been told, by many, that the Duke of \*\*\*\* was of an obliging disposition, and very well received at court; but I never had the vanity to think, that fortune would place me on so good a footing with him. Since my flight from Avignon, I did not go to bed so contented and easy as that night, after I had supped with him. Promising myself great advantage, at Paris, by his protection; I almost rejoiced in my boldness, that had encouraged me to  
make



make a step superior to my sex and condition. Poor women ! said I, to myself, you are condemned to be unhappy ; if constrained to live between the domestic walls, you cannot exert yourselves in search of a fortune which is not to be found easily, but by those that seek for it. By the force of such reflections, I began to think so disadvantageously of my own sex, that it made me pity them. As I kept company with the men, my actions and thoughts acquired, every day, more virility ; and I became less timorous, more engaging, and more free. The Duke, my protector, as I shall hereafter call him, departed the next morning on his journey. I was up betimes, to take my leave of him before he departed ; and he seemed to approve highly of my diligence : he renewed his assurances of favour, which he had made me the night before with so much affection. I accompanied and served him till the moment that he entered his coach, and prepared to set out soon after him. He rode post, and arrived at Fontainebleau that evening. I, who was not in haste, did not arrive there till the next day. My first care was to dress myself in the best manner I could, in a suit that was made

for me at Lyons, and to go directly to the Duke's palace, to pay him a visit : but here I was disappointed ; for as soon as he had paid his compliments to the King, he set out post for Paris. I staid some time at Fontainebleau, to admire the beauties of that royal abode ; and, after three days, returned to the Duke's palace to gain some intelligence of him. His servants told me, that he was not yet returned, nor did they know when he would ; and I, not knowing what to do there without him, got again into my chaise, and took the road to Paris. I spent two days in travelling eighteen leagues, though I could have done it in one ; but the objects I met on the way were worthy of observation, and employed a considerable part of my time. I never saw a more delightful road ; on each side, superb palaces and pleasant gardens, and intermixt with flowers and ever-greens, presented themselves to my view : an immense number of people on the road, going and coming, on horseback, on foot, and in coaches, with the most magnificent equipages, gave additional grandeur to the prospect : in one place, I met the train of a prince ; in another, the coach of a princess : sometimes a  
company

company of the King's horse-guard, and sometimes a batallion of French guards ; all new objects to me ; but such as gave me incredible delight. From Fontainebleau, I travelled on till I came within sight of Paris ; beholding, as far as my eyes could discern, nothing but towns, cupulos, spires, and other high edifices. I thought I saw, in that city alone, all the world. When I had passed the suburbs, and had got a little way into the streets of Paris, I found it a very difficult matter to get to the inn which had been recommended to me, called the Flander's Lodge, at St. Michael's bridge. I was, more than once, in danger of being overturned, and of leaving my chaise broken in the streets ; while I was avoiding one coach before me, another was threatening me behind ; and to clear myself of those on the right hand, I ran against those on my left ; till it pleased heaven, I arrived safe and sound at the Flanders' Lodge, where I found several officers recruiting, but had no connection with any. In the mean time I informed myself where the Duke, my protector, lived ; and I was told, that his palace was not far off. After I had dressed myself in my habit of ceremony, I

waited upon him, and, luckily for me, he was still in Paris. When he saw me, he embraced me kindly, and I found him more courteous than ever; whether it was because his partiality to me was increasing, or whether the dress, in which I presented myself, merited this greater regard, I cannot tell: I was dressed in a proper manner to appear at court; my coat was a rich silk of a dark ground, embroidered with small silver flowers; my waistcoat was a sky blue, embroidered in the same taste; I had a shirt, with lace ruffles, very fine; and my hair was dressed, and tied loose, hanging in ringlets on my shoulders, and so long that it reached to the bottom of my back; I wore a very fine hat, with a white feather, which gave more than ordinary majesty to my stature; the sword, which I wore by my side, was silver hilted, and gilt; and a sword knot with deep red and gold flowers: upon the whole, I found that the Duke, having noticed me from head to foot, observed me with pleasure, and thought me worthy of his distinction. What did you think of me, said he, when you did not find me at Fontainebleau? if you had put off coming till to-morrow, I should have been upon  
the

the return there, while you was seeking me at Paris ; who knows but that you imagined it was all done on purpose not to let you find me ? I assured him, that I should willingly have gone ten times as far, to have had the honour of seeing him. You look, said he, like a bride going to her husband ; and I will certainly take you with me to Fontainebleau, to revenge myself on some of the ladies at court, that are insensible of my addresses. I told him, laughing, that I would do myself the honour of going with him wherever he pleased.

We set out from Paris in his coach, together with his secretary, and took, on a full trot, the road to Fontainebleau. To pass away my time in travelling, he asked me, if, on my coming from Marseilles, I had passed through Cavillon ? to which I answered, that I had, as it was only twelve leagues distant. They are eternally long, replied he : At Cavillon I diverted myself, very agreeably, with Madam Silisti ; I never saw a woman of better behaviour, or more compleat in the art of pleasing ; I really believe she has made more conquests than Cleopatra did ; did you know her ? No, Sir, answered I, as I only passed through that place ; but I have heard  
the

the Marquis of Massan speak of her, who lodged at the Little Louvre ; he is an amiable gentleman, but his company is a little dangerous to the fair sex. That is very true, replied the Duke ; I know that he paid his addresses to three young ladies all at the same time, and spent an immense treasure on them : people of this character consume their fortune foolishly, and make themselves ridiculous. We then began to discourse of Avignon, but this was a subject that did not please me in the least. I have seen there, said he, a young lady, so very beautiful, that I would give a thousand crowns she was my secretary's wife. His secretary, who did not expect such a joke, frankly answered, I should be noways desirous, Sir, to be in such a situation. Why ? added the Duke ; you would, perhaps, be afraid that I should do you some wrong ? No, Sir, replied he, you are too wise and honest ; but, according to the manner in which you express yourself, there would not be wanting those that would think to the contrary. And for this, added the Duke, do not you know how Mr. ———, a friend of mine, took a wife ? three weeks after marriage, she was brought to bed of  
two

two children : when they were shewn to him, Ah ! said he, laughing, welcome ladies ; in truth, I did not expect you so soon. But that is not all ; he ordered twenty-four cradles to be provided, and loaded them in a cart, ordering them to be carried to his house : his acquaintance asked him, what need there was for all these cradles ? he answered, If, in one month, I have two children ; at the end of the year, I shall have twenty-four : and, out of all these cradles, there will not be one too many. In this manner the Duke entertained us, and we arrived at Fontainebleau two hours before night. As we came near that place, we met several people, on horseback, magnificently dressed, being no less than the retinue of the King himself, who was just going out a hunting. Here the Duke was obliged to leave his coach, mount a horse, and join the company ; nor did it avail his protesting that he had not dined, and that he was dying with hunger and fatigue ; for they insisted upon his going with them. Seeing with how much intimacy the courtiers treated him, I thought myself the more happy in his protection ; and already imagined that my fortune was made. I remained

mained in the coach with the secretary, and we soon arrived at the Duke's palace, where we regaled ourselves with the dinner prepared for him.

## C H A P. XVI.

*The Duchess of \*\*\*\* takes me for her Gentleman.*

**T**HE Duke did not return till evening, and, as he was both hungry and fatigued, went to bed immediately after supper. As soon as he was up, the next morning, I went to pay my respects to him. Very well, said he, at seeing me, you and my secretary are two men of spirit, to let such violence be used with your master; at least you should have put your hands to your swords, to defend me from that oppression; they have paid me off in such a manner, that I shall feel it for this fortnight. Notwithstanding this, to revenge myself on you, for your cowardice, I have appointed you gentleman to the Duchess of \*\*\*\*; prepare therefore to present yourself to her. On my part, I was very well satisfied with this reproof, thanked heaven for having made me acquainted with him, and I already flattered myself that I should



should make no trifling figure at court. His secretary immediately conducted me to the Duchess. And are you, said she, to me, that Italian gentleman of whom the Duke spoke to me? I am, answered I, bowing, and am come, by his orders, to assure your Grace of my humble servitude. Is it possible! added she, your protector is a great visionary, or yourself, Sir, are a prodigy; at this age, so many campaigns at sea, so many battles sustained with valour, so many cruizers sent to the bottom, so many wounds by you received, of which there does not appear the least sign! This language surprised me not a little; not knowing where it would end. I assured the Duchess, that I had not seen any other sea, but that from Venice to Marseilles; nor any other fire, but that in a chimney in winter time. Why, added she, the Duke has given such a description of your life, as if you had been the terror of the sea; and has painted you, to me, in such a manner, as to make me believe that you was all over fire and sinoak; with two whiskers of a new invention, that, from ear to ear, covered your face all over. I could scarce refrain from laughing at the romantic description the Duke had  
given

given of my person ; when she replied, that it did not seem extraordinary to her, that such extravagant whims should come into the head of the Duke ; but that it gave her pleasure to find me so different from what she had been made to believe. After I had given an account of myself, in the same manner as I had done to the Duke, my protector, she called a footman to conduct me to the apartment that she had appointed for me ; ordering me, at the same time, to come to her the next morning, when she would give me further instructions. My apartment consisted of two rooms, one within the other, very genteelly furnished, and having given the necessary orders for my little baggage, that was left at the Flanders Inn, to be brought from Paris, the Duke's gentleman came to congratulate me, in his name, at my arrival, and of the acquisition, as he said, that his house had made. This gentleman's name was Mr. Befone ; and from his pleasing disposition I should directly have contracted a particular intimacy with him, had I been inclined so to do. But I had my reasons for not having too close a connection with any body : however, I took care to avoid giving offence by reserved behaviour.

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He congratulated me not a little ; assuring me, that my air and manner had very much pleased the family, and that I should be a very welcome guest : in fact, when he conducted me into the common hall, to dinner, I received, from every one, a thousand compliments; which I returned, as politely as I could, by answering each, in particular, in the manner most suitable to their dignity. There were present, the intendant general of the family, the two secretaries, we two gentlemen, two pages, the steward, and the Duchess's waiting-maid. At table there were generally ten of the family, and always three covers extraordinary for those that should accidentally come to visit us. Mr. Besone kept me company all the afternoon : and we went together to wait upon the Duke, my protector, to return him thanks. At night they supped very late ; and although I was not accustomed to this manner of living, it no ways disagreed with me ; but I supped heartily, and slept better than usual all that night. When I arose in the morning, a footman came to dress my hair, which he did in the genteelest taste ; and at mid-day I went to pay my respects to the Duchess, who asked me,

if it was true, as she had been told, that I could not mount on horseback. I answered her, that having made all my journeys either by water, or stage-coaches, I had not had any practice in riding; but as it was my desire to please her, it would require but little to become master of it. She told me, after this, that she thought I was in debt a compliment to the Duke, her husband; and she herself conducted me to him in person. He also paid me a thousand compliments; after which the Duchess took me back with her, and, calling Mr. Besene, ordered him to have me made perfect in the management of a horse; as she was desirous of having me to hunt, and go every where with her. In ten days exercise I could ride every horse in the stable, with as much familiarity as if I had been used to it for many years; at the end of which time, I desired leave, of the Duchess, to go two days to Paris, to sell a horse and chaise that I had left there. In those two days I did my business, and returned to the court with a dress still much more pompous than the first; insomuch that the Duke, on seeing me, said to his lady, I am glad, Madam, that you have a gentleman that does you honour: really

really you are dressed according to your rank. I have no hand in it, answered the Duchess. So much the worse, Madam, said he; you are under an obligation to repay him such an expence, which must fall heavy on a private person. To this I replied, there is no need; it is enough for me to be honoured with your approbation. These, said the Duke, are truly noble sentiments, that gain you all my love and esteem: it is a great misfortune to you, that you are not born a woman; to be a man, you are too amiable. At this speech, my face glowed like fire; but, as I naturally had a fresh complexion, it did not take their attention. They then retired to talk apart, and I withdrew to the anti-chamber, lest my presence might be a restraint upon them. My heart was uneasy, fearing they had conceived some suspicion of me: I stayed at the door, listening very attentively to what they were saying, in order to find out whether I was deceived or not; but my suspicion was nothing more than simple conjecture. I have never seen, said the Duke, any face of a woman so amiable as that of your gentleman: I like him so much the more, as, it seems to me, that I see painted

painted, in him your features; and  
 in his, a certain I know not what,  
 that resembles yours. It does not seem  
 so to me, answered the Duchess; but  
 I own, that I should be content to live  
 a few years less, to be, in my sex, so  
 young and amiable as my gentleman is  
 in his. So should I also, added the  
 Duke; and to see you so, would give a  
 fourth part of all I am worth; because,  
 in such case, I do not know which of  
 us would be best off. While they were  
 thus discoursing, I thought differently  
 from either of them: I have heard  
 more than once, that if it was in our  
 own hands to chuse our sex, which  
 would be most useful to us, from the  
 age of thirteen to twenty-three, we  
 ought to chuse that of a woman; and  
 to be men the remaining part of our  
 lives. The world does us injustice, by  
 judging, that we cannot be amiable af-  
 ter thirty years of age; when so many  
 men are judged handsome after forty.  
 Reflecting upon this wrong that was  
 done to our sex, it pleased me to be  
 thought what I was not; and, consi-  
 dering what I was, I was ashamed of  
 myself. I do not deny, but that my  
 natural vanity would have been agree-  
 ably entertained by a crowd of admirers,  
 being

being in the flower of my age; but to what purpose, said I, is such a pleasure, which passes away so soon! and why should I sacrifice to beauty, those more lasting charms of liberty? Besides this, I found myself engaged to appear in a character very different; and, whatever was to happen to me, I was resolved to see the end of it. All my applications tended to confirm myself always the more in these laudable maxims. By force of reflection, I had conceived such an aversion for the weakness of our sex, that I viewed it, in other women, with an eye of compassion. It will seem strange, to any one, that having commerce every day with courtiers, who were the flower of youth and spirit, I had not taken a liking for any one; nor could I find a person suitable to my taste: I considered love as an enemy, that could be the only cause of my ruin, by venturing a secret on which my honour and fortune depended. Besides this, the Count Termes never was out of my thoughts: it seemed an inviolable point of my philosophy, to preserve myself faithful to him as long as I should live; at least, till I should despair of a return. To avoid indulging these deceiving thoughts, all

the time that I had to spare in my new employment, and that was a great deal, I spent in reading; which enriched my mind with such a diversity of knowledge, that there was not any one thing mentioned, which appeared new to me, and in which I could not join the discourse. Among other things, it came into my head to write to Italy, to Count Termes; not to indicate to him what was become of me, but only to let him see that I was not less in love than himself. Upon this subject I wrote him a short letter, and signed it with the name of D'Arville; but put no date, that he might not know how to direct to me. My thought was strange, as, by that means, I deprived myself of the pleasure of hearing from one whom I loved; but I could not do otherwise, without the risk of being discovered, when it concerned me, more than ever, to keep myself private. I directed the letter to the French camp in Italy; and went to Mr. Befone, desiring him to put it into the post-office. It happened that the Duchess's waiting-maid perceived it on the table, as he was making up the packet for Italy; at which she shewed some surprize. As I had recommended secrecy to him, he behaved



ed like a man of honour, and told her, that it was his; and, without giving her any further satisfaction, sent it away. When he told me of the fact, I was terribly alarmed, but I did not seem so; on the contrary, I told him, that he might have shewed it to her without difficulty, because there was nothing to which she could have any objection. Miserable me! if she had seen it; but frankness sometimes prevents suspicion, and, luckily for me, there was no more said about it.

#### C H A P. XVII.

*An extraordinary Commission given me by the Duke, my Master.*

SEVERAL days had elapsed, in which I had had nothing to do, when one morning, early, the Duke sent for me to his chamber. What can this be? said I, in my heart; should it be any thing about myself? can the letter, wrote to the Count, have given any cause of suspicion? Under these apprehensions, I waited upon him to know his will; but, by his obliging behaviour, he soon removed my suspicions. I have still more reason, said he, to rejoice that you came to my house; because, from the continual

continual information that I receive, of your character, I know I can confide in you. To this preliminary speech, I answered as I ought. He then put into my hands a purse full of pistoles. Take this, said he, and accept it as a testimony of my love, and the confidence I have that you can keep a secret. My Lord, answered I, I have heard a story of a King, who desired one of his favourites to ask whatever he thought proper of him : " Sire, answered the favourite, dead as you please with me, provided you do not make me your secret-keeper." I accept the gift of your Grace, and shall endeavour to merit your confidence on every occasion; but if you will dispense with whatever requires my secrecy, I shall be the more obliged to you : my age, and inexperience of the world, will easily persuade you, it would be putting it in very bad hands : as to any thing else, you shall find that I am all obedience; and you have only to command me. The confidence I have to repose in you, said the Duke, is such, that it need not put you under any apprehension : I desire only this of you — observe, with attention, all those people who come most frequently to my wife :  
not

not that I have the least doubt of her good conduct ; but her person, being superior to mine, obliges me to have all the regard imaginable for her : I have secret reasons that put me under a necessity to know every thing that passes ; I know, from good authority, that there is an affair carrying on against my person, into which they are also trying to draw in my wife as an accomplice : at the head of this is the Prince of \* \* \* \*, who was my rival ; and, from my advanced age, he flatters himself, that, with my wife, he shall also get my estate ; she being young, and knowing but little of the court, may be easily drawn into the snare : you may preserve her, by your attention ; and, by advising me in time of what you see, you may assure yourself of making your fortune in my house. While he was thus talking to me, I heard all : I am, said I, in my heart, in the service of the Duchess, and her husband would have me become a spy on her actions ; he is more jealous than Jove was of Juno, and would have me an Argus to observe her steps. I replied, that his Grace could make a much better choice, by employing some antient domestic belonging to the Duchess, and who had  
more

more experience than myself. There is no one, said he, in whom I can confide, except yourself, in an affair of such consequence. But, Sir, said I, suppose I was capable of serving you, if the Duchess should find it out, what is to become of me? What have you to fear? replied the Duke, it is enough that you do your part; for the rest, you may depend upon me. At these words I bowed; and retired so perplexed, and confused, that I did not know the way to my apartment. Here, thought I, the promised happiness of my new station is at an end; my mind is again in a tempest, and my heart full of grief. One of these methods I must take, and, in either, I evidently saw my ruin: I was either to betray my mistress, and expose myself to the reproofs of my own heart, and the just resentment of an irritated woman; or, I was to disobey a jealous husband, who would not long suffer me to continue in his house; or, I was under a necessity to demand my discharge from the family. But what reason could I give the Duke, my protector, for rendering myself so unworthy of his favour, for which I knew myself so greatly obliged to him. I deposited the gift, the  
Duke

Duke had made me, with my other money; but interest predominated in me so little, in opposition to my other passions, that it never came into my head even to see to what sum it amounted.

After dinner, I locked myself up in my room, that I might consider how to manage matters with the Duke, who had ordered me to return to him towards four o'clock in the afternoon. I resolved to comply with the maxims of the court, by dissembling my real sentiments; in fact, I went with a free and open air, and heard the new lessons which he gave me on that subject: I promised to keep to his instructions; I even appeared joyful at receiving this commission, to be able to shew him, how much I devoted myself to his interest; but I left him with a firm intention to do nothing inconsistent with my own inclination. On going out of the Duke's apartment, I met Madam Cafarde, waiting maid to the Duchesse, my mistress: this meeting I should gladly have avoided; but to pass her by, without speaking, would have been uncivil. She accosted me, saying, that her mistress was not going out of the house that day, and that we were both at liberty: she proposed our taking a walk

walk together ; and it was necessary, for conveniency, to comply. Her discourse began with praising me, of which I was already sick, hearing it repeated from every part. She afterwards talked about Italy, of which place I thought her a native, and railed against the cruelty of the Italians, in keeping their wives like slaves : the same custom, said she, prevails in Spain, where I have been several years with my mistress : my mother died in bringing me into the world ; my father was a lieutenant-colonel of the regiment of Perigard, and was killed at the siege of Landaw. As my mother had suckled the Duchess, so she took care of me, who was not above seven years of age. When I was with her in Spain, Signior Casardo, a Spanish captain, took me for his wife. The Duchess thought, by this, she had made my fortune ; but I was no sooner his wife, than he was obliged to depart for the country, and I along with him. His whimsical humour was soon degenerated into a beastly wildness ; he took more care of his horses, than of his wife ; and I was confined to the narrow boundaries of my chamber, nor did I enjoy any company but that of my own reflection.

Jealous

Jealous to excess, even of his own brother, he would not let me go to church, unless he went with me.' After a painful slavery of seven years, I was freed of him by a wound, which he received at the siege of Barcelona. I informed the Duchess of his death, and she immediately recalled me to her service. After the death of Captain Cafardo, I found, in his bureau two thousand pistoles, which sum I have at this time in my possession. She gave me several hints that she would, with good will, embark in a second marriage; and hoped to have better fortune than she had in the first. She was not without charms, but had a higher opinion of herself than she ought; and the favour of her mistress rendered her still more conceited.

## C H A P. XVIII.

*Means taken, by me, to exempt myself  
from the Duke's Commission.*

**W**HEN I parted with Madam Cafardo, my anxiety in what manner best to act, in the disagreeable business in which I had been employed by the Duke, added greatly to the uneasiness of my mind.

Two days were now passed, since I had seen the Duchess; the third day she sent for me, and was surprised to see me look pale and melancholy: in fact, for two days I had eat little, and slept less, being very much troubled in mind. She asked me a thousand questions, to find out the cause of my melancholy; and perhaps was persuaded that she had found out the reason, when she enquired, if I had kept the note of the cost of the cloaths which she had seen me wear? I told her, I had not. She ordered me to make it out, and bring it to her. Your Grace, answered I, is mistaken, if you think that my trouble proceeds from any bad management in my œconomy; when your Grace is better acquainted with me, you will find, that no sentiment of vile interest will ever be capable to give me  
the



the least disquiet. I have motives for affliction, for which your Grace cannot find a remedy. The only means to free me from it, will be to give me my discharge from your service. But what! interrupted the Duchess, do you desire to leave me, without letting me know the cause? this I shall never permit: tell me, first, what induces you to take such a step; and then, if your resolution is reasonable, I also shall be reasonable enough not to oppose your inclination. Madam, added I, I am bound to keep it secret, my word and honour being pledged. I can also assure you, said she, on my word and honour, that, provided you reveal it to me, I shall make no use whatever of the secret, without your permission. Then, I replied, I shall obey your Grace; but you are to remember, that, after this, you are to grant me my discharge, and so order matters with the Duke, my protector, that he may not say I have used him ill. All this I shall do, said she, when necessity demands it; and you may rely on my word. I then candidly laid before her, the commission I had from the Duke, her husband; and protested that to be the sole cause of my affliction. The Duchess remained

very much astonished at my account; but, returning soon to herself, and putting on an air of gravity, which gave incredible weight to her words, Sir, said she, to me, it can never be true, that, for a thing so frivolous as this, you desire to leave me; I know you, that I depend not on the Duke, my husband, only in what I please; my people have nothing to do with him, nor ought he to concern himself with them; persevere in being true to me, as you seem to be, and fear nothing; I am able, thank God, to render dangerous to him, whatever he dare attempt against either my person or yours: when he sees that you are not fallen into his net, he'll have the greater esteem for you, and behave with more respect: it is not difficult to deceive him; he wanted to induce you to betray me, for which reason he deserves to be betrayed himself. Madam, said I, since heaven will have it so, that I am to depend on you, rather than on the Duke, I plainly see, that I ought not to undertake any thing that may be detrimental to you, and rely so much on your protection; that, I dare swear inviolable fidelity to you: but I depend on your discretion, that you will not employ me in any thing.

that

that may be inconsistent with the character of an honest man. The Duchess, hearing me pronounce these few words with a frankness of spirit, and tone of voice, which shewed that they came from my heart, was so moved, that, squeezing me courteously by the hand, I am certain, added she, of your attachment to my person; be you also certain of my gratitude: from this moment, I assign you a yearly pension of a thousand crowns; this is the first proof, that you may think I speak as I mean. Because you shall not believe that I will abuse your fidelity, by employing you in things unbecoming your character, I will lay open to you, from this moment, the only motives that my husband can have for treating me in this manner. You see, that between his age and mine, there is a great difference; I married him only in obedience to the desires of the court, and to please my relations; and should have been glad that he had found my inclinations unengaged, when I was given to him in marriage. But, in my heart, the prince of ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ had prevailed; and it was not in my power to give to the Duke, what was not my own. I should not be a woman of honour, should I be wanting in that conjugal affection which I

owe to him alone ; but is it not indiscreet of a man of honour, to be diffident of his wife ? and, through mere diffidence, he would make me a slave ! If the Duke was to die, I should not have the least scruple to marry the prince ; and, on my account only, he defers taking a wife. I do not, on this account, desire the Duke's death ; but submit to the will of heaven, and study how to regulate my conduct, for the present, as prudence and honour best suggest. This, Sir, is all the cabal, and secret management, which my husband says is in agitation to hasten his death. Let him live as long as heaven pleases, but let others also live ; and if jealousy torments him, he must not blame any but himself. There is no occasion, Madam, said I, that your Grace should lessen yourself, in such a manner, as to give me a minute account of your affairs ; without this, I was enough persuaded of your honour and prudence : but this encreases my esteem, and the concern I shall always have to serve you where I am able. With these expressions I assured her of my faithful attachment ; and she was so well convinced of it, that, by my means, a new method was opened to keep up her honest secret correspondence

correspondence with the prince; which she probably would not have made use of, if the Duke, her husband, had not given motives thereto by his jealous madness. In fact, the Duchess was not long before she set me to work, charging me with a letter to be put into the prince's own hand, but she first insisted on my reading it. The letter was as under:

“ Dear Sir,

Since we saw each other last, a little novelty has happened, of which I shall inform you the first time we meet. Your absence from the court, has caused me an incredible deal of trouble. The gentleman that bears this to you, has been some days past in my service, in whose fidelity we may depend: he has, to this hour, given me such convincing proofs thereof, as I shall tell you by word of mouth, that with him we may permit all our reserve. To-morrow I will attend you at the usual place, and shall be always the same, that is,

All Your's, &c.”

When I had read the letter, Now, says the Duchess, I will tell you how you are to conduct yourself, for the delivery,

livery, without danger. Come with me to the audience of the King: I will give you my little lap-dog to hold in your hand; with it you will wait in the park, till the prince arrives; though he does not know you, you will not pass unnoticed by him: he, knowing my little dog, will immediately think you are there by my orders; and, under pretence of playing with the dog, will ask you if you have any thing for him. This is the signal, by which you cannot be deceived. It is enough that you have the letter in your hat; he will take it, without any body's perceiving it. As she told me, in fact so it happened. To tell the truth, this commission had created, in my breast, some little repugnance; but most things appear to our minds, in the light our passions paint them. The situation of the Duchess was truly to be pitied, and her maxims were regulated by reason and honesty. I had read the letter, but had found nothing that was bad in it; and was much prejudiced in her favour, without knowing the reason. I had no sooner executed the orders of the Duchess, than I was surpris'd by the Duke, who was curious to know if I had any news for him, in consequence  
of

of his commands to me. I was walking in the garden with Madam Cafardo, who grew every day more and more in love with me, and was endeavouring to kindle the same fire in my breast; but she did not know how badly her desires were adapted to my circumstances. Seeing the Duke come, she left me; I strove to avoid him, but he came up to me, and, taking me familiarly by the hand, asked; if I had any news? I seemed at first to be surprised, and answered him, that his Grace certainly knew, better than me, the news at court. But added he, I do not mean that; I speak of the Duchess. Oh, Sir, said I, I understand; but your Grace knows that my Lady, since you spoke to me, has not been out of the house. I know that, replied he, but have you observed nothing in the house, that I ought to know? Nothing, Sir, said I, from what I have been able to discern. Well, well, said he, it will not be always so; there will certainly be some news soon: be attentive; farewell. . . . I leave you, because I would not be observed by any body.

The day following, towards four o'clock, the Duchess sent for me, to  
mount

mount a horse, and accompany her. I was not wanting at the precise hour; she went alone in the coach, and I followed on horseback. We took the road to the forest of Fontainebleau, in the way to Paris: when we were near Paris, we turned down a long shady path, that led directly to the forest. Some hundred yards from the forest the Duchess got out of the coach, ordering her servants to wait for her, and making me give her my arm, walked slowly down the same path.

#### C H A P. XIX.

*The Duchess meets with the Prince; and the Consequences of that Meeting.*

I Was very curious to know where this would finish; but the Duchess advanced towards the wood, without saying a word to me. It struck into my thoughts, that some meeting was going on with the Prince, nor was I without apprehension; insomuch that the Duchess herself seemed disturbed. Love is blind, said I, to myself, and frequently breaks the measures of the most refined prudence: the Duke is jealous, and jealousy has an hundred eyes to see even more than is true: those  
who



who fear every thing, frequently discover more than they seek for. Who knows but the Duke, doubly politic, pretends to confide in me, to entrap us both in the same net! and if this should happen, how are we to get out? or how are we to defend ourselves? Agitated by these thoughts, I walked in continual suspicion; and, at the trembling of the leaves, thought myself in danger of my life: not that I wanted either spirit or courage to defend myself, in case of a surprize: the management of a sword was no new exercise to me, as I had, for some time past, for two hours in every day, taken lessons of fencing: I had also, in my pocket, the pistols I bought at Dijon, and had courage to use them in case of need. But the reputation, both of the Duchess and myself, put me in more apprehensions than my life. Resolving to risk all, in defence of a person that put confidence in me, I followed with fear, and would not have abandoned her had it cost me my life. When we had got at some distance from the coach, the Duchess stopped, and turning herself about, see, said she, to me, we are out of the sight of my servants; I am now in your power, and shall confide in you.

So saying, she made me turn to the right, into another narrow path, so thick with trees, and covered from the sun, that a person could hardly be distinguished twenty yards off. At the end of this, we came to a little round house, of about thirty yards in circumference, surrounded with trees, so thick, and so large, that it seemed the middle of the wood. This is the place, said the Duchess, where it is usual for me to meet the Prince, who comes by another path, and should be here at this hour. In fact, we were no sooner got out of this close path, than we saw him coming to meet us, with that impatience peculiar to a passionate lover. Knowing me to be the same person who had delivered him the letter, he paid me a genteel compliment; but he had not much time to lose with me. The Duchess then ordered me to place myself at the entrance of that straight path, to observe if any one should come that way, and to apprise her of it by coughing. No, said the Prince, your coughing will be suspected; take this repeater, and, if any one comes, make it strike, that I may retire by my path, and the Duchess by hers. The Duchess approved of this method; I took the watch, and

and posted myself, as a centinel, at such a distance that I could see them, tho' I could not hear what they said. Luckily nothing happened to interrupt their discourse, which lasted a good half hour; the Prince went by one path, the Duchess came and joined me; we then got into our path, and, walking slowly as we came, advanced towards the coach. When we were on the great road, she asked, if I should see the Duke the next day? and, what I intended to say to him? Well, Madam, said I, tomorrow I shall go and give him an account, without his asking me, that your Grace was walking in the forest; that you went there alone, and that you returned alone; because, in fact, the Prince neither went nor returned with you: if he should ask me, whether I was with you all the time? I shall answer him, frankly, yes; and, to tell the truth, I never lost sight of you. But, said the Duchess, he may ask you, if I spoke to any person? if any body accosted the coach? and such like questions. Doubt not, Madam, said I; I know how to behave myself, in such a manner, as to render void his most curious enquiry; and, I flatter myself, you will be quite content with me. In

such like discourse we got to the coach, and retired to the palace. The next morning I went to pay my respects to the Duke, after having put on that virile assurance necessary to deceive him: there was no great occasion, for he took, as solid gold, this my artful relation. He asked me a thousand questions; but, as he confided in me, he remained satisfied with my answers, and began to talk with me, on other things, with as much affability as if I had been his son. I know not where he was going that morning, or whether he waited for the appointed time; but he asked me, what it was o'clock? to oblige him, I took out my watch, and remained like a statue, on finding it to be that which the Prince had left in my hands, and which I had kept in my pocket, intending, by the first opportunity, to give it to him again. The Duke took it in his hand, and observing it attentively, you have a very handsome repeater, said he, but I think I have seen it several times before; how did you come by it? Sir, said I, (my blood running chill with fear) it is probable you may have seen this repeater in another's hands; because I am about buying it of the Princess of \* \* \* \* \*'s gentleman. What does

does he ask for it? said the Duke; I replied, he demands forty Louisd'ores, but I intend to try it a few days in my pocket before I pay him the money. By this excuse, I hoped to come off with honour; and to tell him afterwards, in case he should not see it any more in my hands, that it did not go well, and, for that reason, I would not buy it. But, by this means, I was more puzzled than ever; the Duke replied, that it was made by a very eminent hand, and that I need not doubt of it's goodness; that it was well worth the forty Louisd'ores, and that if I would not be at the expence for it, he would; that I might have it as a proof of his remembrance and esteem for me. So saying, he opened a bureau, counted me out forty Louisd'ores, gave me the watch, and sent me away. Here am I more perplexed than ever; I found myself under an obligation to restore it to the Prince; and it was necessary for me to have it, that the Duke might see, when occasion offered, that I esteemed his present. I was not without suspicion that the Duke had known it, but that he pretended not on purpose to upbraid me with my infidelity; and, in this confusion, I knew not what step to take.

An act of simple inadvertency had made me have recourse to an excuse, to avoid a disorder; but that innocent excuse was likely to produce a greater ill, and probably would have produced it, if I had not found a remedy. I did not know better what to do, than to go immediately to the Duchess, and inform her of the fact. Entering her room, Oh! Madam, said I, you do not know what has happened! What is it? said she, surprised and trembling; I told her the case, and her fears ceased. But you frightened me, said she, when there was no occasion for it: it is almost impossible that my husband should know the Prince's watch; notwithstanding this, as there is no other remedy, stand to what you have said, and I will think of the remainder. These words revived me a little; but I had hardly recovered myself from this surprize, but I fell into a greater. Changing the discourse, Bring me that picture that is on the table there, said she. On taking it up, and observing it, I thought I had seen it before; and immediately recollected, that it resembled the one I had seen with Dull, the Italian merchant, whom I had met with on my journey. They pretend, said the Duchess, tak-  
ing

ing it out of my hand, that this picture is like me; probably it was like me; but it has very little resemblance at present; what think you of it? My confusion, at these words, was incredible; by this I came to understand, that my mistress was the person mentioned by Dull, of whom he preserved the picture: I was surprised I had not found it out before, and perhaps it was that I had forgot it, or rather, because her more advanced age had altered her features, in such a manner, that, without a particular observation, one could not distinguish the resemblance. Now I found I was privy to a secret, of which she had not the least suspicion. Whilst the Duchess was expecting my answer, thinking perhaps that my respect kept me from giving my opinion, speak, said she, freely your sentiments, do you think this resembles me? I answered, as in fact it was, that between the picture and the original there was some little difference; but I turned it to her praise, by saying, that her lively air could not be represented, as it ought, by the most excellent painter. The Duchess laughed, and added, that she found, in that picture, something amiable, which in vain she had looked for in her face;

and I do not understand, added she, why the Duke, my husband, should maintain, that you resemble me in the air of your face; when I find, that you rather resemble this my picture than you do me. This was much the same with what I had heard the Duke say, a few days ago, as I stood in the anti-chamber; but this troubled me, and made me blush; which the Duchess interpreted for an act of modest respect, and, making me a present of her picture that I might always think of her, asked me, if Mr. Befone, her husband's gentleman, was my confidant and friend? I answered her, that I thought so, according to the continual proofs he gave me of his honesty and candour. Then, replied she, inform yourself, from him, what correspondence he has with Count Termez, who was in the army of Italy; if he has wrote to him lately, by order of my husband, and to what end my husband holds this correspondence with him; Mrs. Cafardo assures me, that, with her own eyes, she saw a letter directed to him, and therefore do not be easily put off; the affair must be managed with great dexterity, and I know that you are not deficient of it, when you really have it at heart to do me a pleasure.



pleasure, I <sup>must</sup> have satisfied the Duchess immediately, by confessing, that the letter, which Mrs. Cafardo had seen, was mine; but as all this regarded my own secret, it gave me some apprehensions, and made me go cautiously about it. I only answered then, that I would do my endeavour to satisfy her; and with this, took my leave.

C H A P. XX.

*New Discoveries in regard to the Duchess,  
and Declaration of Madam Cafardo.*

**I**F ever I returned confused and afflicted to my room, this was the time; and I had good reason: what a labyrinth is this, said I, to myself, of which I cannot see the end! my mistress, without doubt, is the Princess of whom Dall spoke, and who was delivered, privately, of a daughter in his house; the Duke pretends that I resemble this picture, drawn for her in the flower of her age; she has a great desire to know, what correspondence passes between her husband and Count Fernes: is it possible, that I am got into the house of my mother, without knowing it? and, if it should be so, what will become of me? oh! how I ramble; or, perhaps,

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it is my vanity makes me doze : Duli was half drunk ; or, perhaps, he wanted me to think him a man of consequence, or cabinet secretary : that Princess of his became a mother in Rome, I was educated at Avignon ; the affair in regard to Count Termes, is known also to Madam Cafardo, then it cannot be an affair that requires great secrecy, as she is not looked upon to be a woman capable of keeping it ; and I all this while have the letters from my mother, nor has the writing of them any likeness with those I have seen of the Duchess . . . . Mine are all apprehensions ; I am uneasy without reason. Thus I argued with myself ; but many difficulties remained, which seemed to me insurmountable. It was necessary to give the Duchess some answer concerning the letter sent to the Count, without discovering that it was mine, and without running the risk of being caught in a lye ; it was also necessary that I should agree in my story with Mr. Besone. Exclusive of all this, I was concerned to think what I should say to the Duke about the watch ; and the dangerous character of Madam Cafardo who carried every trifling thing to her mistress, perplexed me not a little. Dissident of  
every

every thing which I either saw or heard, I placed myself before a looking-glass, with the picture in my hand which the Duchess had given me, and began to compare the features with my own; in fact, I began to think that the Duke was in the right; but with what certainty could I trust to an imperfect resemblance, of which we see frequent examples. I then took into my hand that of Count Termes, which I always observed with pleasure, to examine which of the two was best drawn; at this instant Madam Casardo surprised me, and I endeavoured to conceal the pictures, but had not time to do it. I ought to go about my business, said she, finding you engaged in the contemplation of your lover; but I am sincere, nor can I dissemble any longer my affection for you: I love you to such a degree, that I am no longer mistress of myself, seeing that you are blind to my tenderness, or, if you are sensible of it, you only abuse it with slighting me. Madam, said I, you are in an error; what I was looking at, is not the picture of any of my lovers, and I am surprised how you can mortify, in this manner, a young man who has always shewed the greatest esteem for you.

What!

What ! said she, can you deny it was the picture of one of your lovers, which you had just now in your hand ? See, Madam, replied I, if I have not reason to deny it. I then put into her hand the picture of Count Termes, at which she remained astonished. You are right, said she, I am disarmed ; but, alas ! have compassion on me, if my passion has made me take a step unbecoming my character : I have loved you from the first moment I saw you ; your insensibility has only served to encrease my passion ; I am resolved to love you as long as I live ; and, if your heart corresponds with your face, you will not be ungrateful to me. You are perfect, Madam, said I, (interrupting her) in the art of love, but I am too young in that art to know how to answer you ; I am of opinion that you do it to banter me, as it appears unlikely to me, that a lady of your age, merit, and experience, would condescend to fall in love with a boy. Madam Casardo here became serious, assuring me of the sincerity of her affection, and reproved me tenderly, as if she knew me to be designedly insensible. She had, indeed, judged rightly ; but was far from guessing the real motive. I told her, that,

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in truth, I had not yet been in love with any one; that I might, perhaps, hereafter, have an affection for her; and that she was very worthy of it; but that, at the same time, I was desirous my heart and lips should go together, if ever I did marry. Then, added she, promise me, at least, not to love any one else; which I was obliged to promise, though without any intention to keep my word: my fencing-master knocking at the door, Madam Cafardo retired, though much dissatisfied, and I took my hour's exercise as usual.

Towards night Mr. Besene came to me, and I told him, that the Duchess had got intelligence of the letter sent to Count Termes; that I had reason for not saying it was mine, and begged of him to say the same, in case he should be asked. He exclaimed greatly against Madam Cafardo, as a woman who wanted to know every thing, and could keep nothing secret; assuring me also, that he would affirm it to be his letter, and that there was nothing of importance in it. Early the next morning the Duchess sent one of the servants for me; this impatience made me suspect that she desired to know what account I could give her of the letter, and I,  
being

being prepared with an answer, waited upon her to know her commands. This, said she, is a letter which you must deliver into the Prince's own hands, before mid-day; and I will tell you in what manner you must convey it to him. This message could not have happened at a worse time, not that I was unwilling to serve the Duchess in a matter of such consequence, but I was apprehensive of being obliged to deliver the watch to the Prince, which I thought he would certainly ask for. The Duchess having instructed me what method I should take to deliver the billet to the Prince, I took my leave. I was ordered to wait in a remote part of the park, where the Prince was to come, and not to move from thence: twelve o'clock was the time limited; and, although the thoughts of the watch troubled me much, I resolved to return it to the Prince.

## C H A P. XXI.

*An important Secret discovered by me, one Night in the Garden.*

AS I was going to the park, I met Madam Cafardo, who was coming from the Duke's apartment; her first reproof to me was, that, after having so often expressed her real love to me, I never would do her the favour to pay her a visit in her own apartment. I excused myself by answering, that I thought, between us, there was no occasion for those ceremonies, when necessity obliged us to see one another every day, and that I must beg her excuse, at present, being on business of consequence for the Duchess. She departed in a very ill-humour, and I went on to the park to execute my commission; the Prince did not come all that morning to the appointed place, and I waited there till it was almost dark, when I met him, and delivered the billet the Duchess had given me, which he immediately read: I then took out of my pocket the watch, saying, dear Sir, the other day you forgot to take back your watch of me, nor had I time to give it you; here it is. No,

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said he, the Duchess has ordered me to let you keep it; upon condition, you'll tell me what is the reason. This treat of the Duchess seemed to me so delicate, that my veneration increased still more for her. I told the Prince what had happened to me with the Duke, and the pretext that I had made with him; he laughed, assuring me, that it was not possible that the Duke could know the watch; but that it was necessary for me to have it; as he had paid for it, he could say he had made me a present of it. Thus, for once, my imprudence had done me more good than harm; I had got a watch, and forty Louisd'ores. So true it is, that accidents oftener decide for our good, or harm, than human prudence. When the Prince was gone, I began to meditate, in myself, how I could find out what connexions the Duchess had with Count Termes, the better to see in what water I was fishing, and what I had to fear. It seemed to me, I had no object to trouble me but this; and if I could gain some light in this matter, I should be entirely content. I was so lost in this thought, that I forgot the hour of supper; nor did I care much for going, as I had but little appetite, and dreaded



dreaded another assault from Madam Cafardo, which would put me out of all patience. I tarried so long in the park, that it was very late when I got home. Coming near the palace, I heard the footsteps of somebody coming towards me : the rustling of the silk habit gave me reason to believe it to be a woman; the hasty walk, and voice, tho' low, convinced me that it was Madam Cafardo; and I directly suspected, that, not finding me in my chamber, she came to look for me. I placed myself behind a thick bush, and watched her attentively, being curious to know the event. By the light of the moon, I could distinguish another person with Madam Cafardo, but could not be certain who it was. At length I heard them say, He is certainly gone to bed. Oh ! then, thought I to myself, they are talking of me; and, soon after, heard Madam Cafardo say, Do you know I am afraid that I am with child? Had a thunderbolt fallen at my feet, it could not have caused me more confusion : if, at first, her foolish passion made me pity her, I had now lost all my esteem for her; and I began to suspect the real truth. As they walked slowly on, and frequently stopped, I

had the opportunity to hear more : If you can bring about, said he that was with her, the scheme suggested to me by the Buffoon, to induce Richard to marry you, we are both safe ; and I will add to your fortune a thousand pistoles. Though my ears and eyes were fully employed, I could not hear any thing more, nor find out the person who was talking with her : they took a turn or two in the garden, as if they were waiting till all the family were asleep ; they then went into the palace together, and I heard no more of them. When I had lost sight of them, I burst out into a fit of laughter ; then ran to my apartment, and, without lighting a candle, went directly to bed. There I reflected upon what I had heard from Madam Cafardo : It is no wonder, thought I, that her poor husband was jealous ; and who would not be of such a wife ? her love now gives me no more trouble, as I have learned how to treat her ; and it is well for me that I am not in a state to be her husband. With these and such like reflections, I passed away two hours without being able to sleep ; nor had scarcely closed my eyes, when a footman came to inform me, that the Duchess waited for me in the garden :

garden: this obliged me to dress again in haste; I excused myself to her for making her wait, but she laughed, saying, that I was not obliged to be a conjuror, and to know that she would be up so early that morning. Last night, added she, I was not able to close my eyes, which made me get up to take a little fresh air: I have sent to see if Madam Cafardo was up, to come and keep me company; but she is still asleep, though she usually rises very early. Here I had some difficulty to refrain from laughing; but I took care to avoid it, as, in so doing, I should have been under a necessity to inform the Duchess of the reason, and give her some cause to suspect her Maid of Honour. When she had walked about an hour, she went in; but first asked me about the letter to the Prince, and how I had acted with Mr. Befone? to which I answered in a satisfactory manner. And now finding myself alone, the night adventures of Madam Cafardo returned to my mind, and I thought it would afford me some diversion to go and pay her a visit unexpectedly, and drop a hint that I was no stranger to her intrigues. I should have gone directly, if I had not met Mr. Befone, who insist-

ed on my company to walk with him in the garden. After having talked together about the delightfulness of that place, This is nothing, said he, to what you shall see at Versailles; I think you do not seem to have any relish for them; it is uncommon to find a young man of your age so insensible to the gaieties of a court, in which many are beyond reason emerged. Sir, said I, I am young, and a foreigner, without relations, or friends; and, what is worse, have but little experience of the world: you can enjoy the pleasures of a court; and if any thing unexpected should happen, you know in what manner to act. That is true, replied he; yet, I assure you, I am weary of it: those pleasures, which pleased me in my youth, are now tiresome; and, though perhaps you will not believe me, I have more pleasure in your company, than in all the court: but I am of opinion, added he, that Madam Cafardo is the principal cause of your solitary life; every one says that you are not indifferent to her allurements: she has her merits; and I cannot blame you, as, at your age, I perhaps should have done worse. As to this, replied I, laughing, if Madam Cafardo does not want attractions, neither

ther do I believe that she wants lovers. I know nothing of that, said he; but if it is so, she is not of so cruel a disposition as to refuse you a place in her heart : your youth alone deserves it. It is very certain that the women of this age are great admirers of novelty, and a lover of long standing is often obliged to give way to a new gallant : the ladies would be better pleased, if their lovers were like the season of the year, which changes every three months. If this is the case, said I, it is best to have nothing to do with them. Our walk ended at the hour for dinner, at which Madam Cafardo was not present; and I got up from table sooner than usual, because I had a very great desire to go and pay her a visit.

## C H A P. XXII.

*A horrid Scheme formed against me by  
Madam Cafardo.*

**I** found her half undressed, discontented, and pale in the face, which made her seem stupified. I took that opportunity to ask her, if she found herself indisposed? I am not ill, answered she, but I know not what has been the matter all night, for I have not been able to sleep. I must say, Madam, added I, the past night has been fatal to sleep, because the Duchess also laments that she could not sleep; and, two hours after midnight, I was walking in the garden — At that hour, in the garden! she replied: at that hour exactly, answered I; and having heard there I know not what, at that same hour, and knowing that it could not be the Duchess, I imagined I had heard you. Not I, added she; I was in bed before midnight. Then I must have been mistaken, replied I; and am so sorry for your indisposition, that I would willingly stay and bear you company, if a commission from the Duchess did not call me elsewhere. Thus I left her, nor do I know what she thought of the visit: I know, however,

however, that she became more reasonable afterwards with regard to me, and did not trouble me with her love : it was not because the fire was extinguished, but perhaps she covered it under the cinders of very cold indifference, that it might prove more fatal to me ; as, in fact, it happened. What had been said in the garden, the preceding night, regarded me so much, that it excited my curiosity to know still more. Madam Cafardo's lover was some person belonging to the house, because they both went into the palace together : some one else, of whom they were discouraging (having given him the name of Buffoon) was an accomplice in the intrigue : and I was desirous to know who they both were. It was not likely that Madam Cafardo, after what she had heard from me, would hazard any more her intrigues in the garden, but I was deceived in my conjectures ; for having posted myself on the watch, the following night, I was assured of the truth of what had passed the night before ; and, among other things, I heard the secret lover of Madam Cafardo say, if it should so happen that you cannot honestly cover your being with child, by marrying Richard, you will not  
want

want an excuse to retire to Paris till you are brought to bed. Also that night, the Buffoon was mentioned as a man of great cunning, and capable of performing and conducting any thing; but I could not find out who he was. The affair seemed now more serious to me than ever: I suspected they were plotting against me; and although my sex put it in my power to defend myself, rather than come to such an extremity I should have sacrificed my life. Several weeks passed without any thing material happening; as Madam Casardo treated me with the greatest indifference, I regulated my conduct in the same manner towards her. She was become in my eyes, an object of horror and contempt. One day I observed a person come out of her room, whom I thought I had seen before, but could not recollect either when, or where: he was a fat man, of low stature, of about forty years of age, of a dogged look, and a face that did not bode any good: he was tolerably well dressed, and gave himself the air of a man of quality. Passing by me, he looked at me with surprize, as if he seemed to know me; but with so much disdain, as if he thought I did not merit



rit that honour. This behaviour made me more desirous than ever of knowing who he was; and meeting Mr. Before, a few minutes after, as I knew he must have seen him, I asked him, if he knew who he was? The person you saw, said he, is a Buffoon, a character which now a-days makes a figure in the house of the great: his profession is that of a comedian, in which his ability is particularly good, but, on the contrary, his villainous talents are much superior, and I do not believe that, among the living, there is a rascal of so black a heart, or, a greater reprobate; at least, all who have had dealings with him give him that character. The Duke protects him, because he pretends that he served him once as a pimp, a murderer, and a spy; and, as the Marquis of \* \* \* \*, his nephew, has the inspection of the court theatres, this fellow applies to the Duke whenever he has occasion to beg a favour for himself, or a pension for the other comedians. At present he is the head of a company from Troyes; but being hated by them for the presumption he uses them with, and some discontent happening, he wants to get clear of them, and to get a place, for himself

himself and family, in the King's company ; in which he will without doubt succeed, as the Buffoons have best success now a-days: though there are people of credit who countenance him, I have never had any thing to do with him ; nor do I know what the Duke finds in him, to maintain him ; his extraction must be very bad, being of a race of bastards for four generations back, all the vilest dregs of the kingdom.

No picture could be more lively than this ; and Mr. Befone could not say enough, when he declaimed against the abuses and corruption of the world. These particularities made me remember him for one of those I had seen on the theatre at Troyes, and pointed out to me, by the courteous hair-dresser, by the name of Monsieur Tartar. And so he is called here, replied Mr. Befone, because his father had him in Tartary, and passed over Muscovy to France. What affair, added I, can he have with Mrs. Cafardo ? I saw him come out of her room a little while ago. I do not know, said he, as I take no notice of other people's business ; but he has certainly been there to do good for himself, or mischief to somebody else.

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The thought directly occurred to me, that he must be the Buffoon mentioned in the garden, and, by the apprehension that such a black-hearted villain was plotting against me, I was seized with the greatest horror. Then the advice of the young man at Troyes, which was, to keep myself as far from such people as from the seven mortal sins, seemed to be prophetic; and I conceived such an aversion for them, that, when I heard the least mention of comedians, singers, and theatres, my blood ran chill in my veins. I was in the midst of these thoughts, when a servant brought me word, that the Duke wanted to see me. This jealous husband, thought I, wants to know some news of his wife; but I was mistaken, there was worse for myself. As soon as he saw me, he asked me, in a treacherous tone, if I had no news to tell him? to which I answered, that I had none, in which his Grace had any concern. Then I know more than you, said he; seriously asking me, if I had seen Madam Cafardo? I answered him, that I had; and he replied, I know you love her, and it pleases me to think that you have a return. This friendship is not without some mystery; I can swear, Sir, replied I,

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that

that in my correspondence with Madam Cafardo, my love had no part. And I can swear, replied the Duke, that I do not believe you, and I wonder at your being so insincere with me: I know that, at your age, a slip is pardonable; but, dear Richard, when gentlemen make a false step, they ought not to forget the debt of a person of honour: you understand me now! or would you have me explain it more clearly? I do not know, Sir, said I, that I have committed any error that merits this reproof. This is too much, replied the Duke, and really so much dissimulation offends me: how! do you think that I do not know what has passed between you and Madam Cafardo, who now finds herself so unhappy, in having supposed you a man of honour! on her account I will pardon your youthful indiscretion, upon condition, however, that you religiously maintain your promises to her: I have heard, from her, the amorous arts you have practised with her, to seduce her; but I would not lose that good opinion that I had conceived for you, by finding you deficient in so nice a point: your marrying her will honour you more than ever; and I wonder that it should require

quire so much to make you accept what you ought. I need not say I was struck to a statue, and almost deprived of my senses; I did not know where I was, nor was able to speak a word. It seemed to me impossible that her malice could be carried so far, and that I should be accused of so black a crime. What was more easy than to prove myself innocent? but it would have cost me a secret, that I could not reveal without danger. My trouble and silence, in the mean time, were interpreted, by the Duke, for a certain sign of my guilt: Go, Sir, said he, with a tone of voice adapted to encrease my confusion, go, and think on it: you have heard my intention, and do not make it needful for me to repeat it.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XXIII.

*An extravagant Adventure, by which I discovered the Accomplices concerned in the Plot against myself.*

**T**HE time allowed me to give a satisfactory answer to the Duke, was little better than the short respite given to condemned criminals. I shut myself up in my room, where I broke out into many sighs, and such a shower of tears that I could cry, even now, at the remembrance. I was at a loss what to think, what to resolve, what to do! I could publish, said I, the shame of that infamous intrigue which menaces my ruin; but will they believe my words? and where shall I find witnesses for a proof of my persecuted innocence? to justify myself fully, I must betray the secret of my sex; and what will be the consequence, not knowing whose daughter I am? I may, perhaps, be the child of one who would rather have me dead than own me! if I lose the asylum of this court, to what place shall I fly for refuge? and, who knows, perhaps they will not suffer me to leave Paris? These reflections incensed me so highly against Madam Cafardo, the cause of  
these

these my fatal troubles, that, in the heat of anger, I would gladly have embraced an opportunity of revenge, even at the hazard of my own life. Despair and anger besieged me in such a manner, that I did not hear two knocks at the door; my lamentations alarmed Mr. Befone, who forced open the door, and entered. What is the matter, my dear lad? said he, throwing his arms about my neck, what extravagancies are these? you are so much altered, that I hardly know you; but, am I not your friend? am I not old enough to be your father? and why do you make a secret of your affliction, when perhaps I am able to relieve you? you still have it in your power to disclose to me the grief of your heart; and be assured, that, at the cost of my own life, I will take part in your troubles as if they were my own. Being greatly moved by these expressions of paternal tenderness, I thanked him with the tears in my eyes, and resolved to discover to him my situation; upon condition, however, that he should observe inviolable secrecy. I then told him all the Duke had said to me; what I had heard from Madam Cafardo in the garden; and whatever else I could tell him, as a proof

of my innocence, without declaring myself woman. When he had heard all, See, said he, with horror equal to my own, what a woman is capable of, who professes herself a woman of honour ! for my part, when I find myself under a necessity to be conversant with the busy part of mankind, I consider myself as surrounded by assassins, traitors, and thieves : but, my dear friend, in this case, instead of abandoning yourself to despair, you must confide in your own innocence, and take such measures as are most likely to make for your acquittance : you may depend on me, as on yourself ; and I promise you, from this moment, to do all in my power to discover who is the unknown gallant of Madam Cafardo, who, by screening himself, would bring upon you the consequence of his crime ; from this you must unravel the thread of this intricate scheme, and clear up your innocence to the eyes of the Duke. I told him, that I had some suspicion that the Buffoon, who was mentioned in the garden as the contriver of so scandalous a plot, could be no other than that Tartar, of whom we had talked together that morning. 'Tis not unlikely, said the good old man, he is capable



capable of any thing ; but, if it is so, you must observe great caution with him, not to give him the least token of your suspicion, lest you irritate him the more. I have nothing to do with him, replied I, and perhaps never may have an opportunity of seeing him again. Why not ? added he, if he is an accomplice in this gang, he will appear as such, and look out for an occasion to insinuate himself with you, and counsel you to comply with the Duke's desire : people of this character do not blush at their villainy, but are used to carry two faces ; and that with which they present themselves, is always the liar : if this affair turns to your disadvantage, he will be the first to condole with you on your disgrace ; and, discovering your innocence, he'll not be the last to give you joy of your good fortune : keep upon your guard, and make good use of your prudence. By this time, the hour of dinner drawing near, we went together into the hall. I imagined that Madam Cafardo would not be there, or, at least, that she would not have courage to look me in the face ; because, I supposed that she could not think on the cruel design she had meditated against me, without blushing :

blushing: but she had the assurance, more than once, to speak to me; and it was with the greatest difficulty I could stifle my rage. All my consolation consisted in the hopes of discovering land in time; and in being able, one day or other, to vindicate myself. I made not the least doubt but that the Duke had incensed the Duchess against me, by telling her of this affair as he thought proper, and giving all possible weight to the accusation; but I flattered myself, that she would not condemn me without hearing; and to her I could sincerely open my heart: in fact, the following day she sent for me, and I went fully confident of her goodness, and my own innocence. Truly, Richard, said she, at seeing me, I hear strange things of you, which are not to be wondered at, considering the advantages your person gives you to make conquests: in one thing only I am deceived, which is, that I did not believe you so dexterous as to conduct an intrigue with so much secrecy. Permit me, Madam, said I, to have the honour to tell you, that to me you attribute a talent to which I have not the least title: I find that the Duke has given you an account injurious to my honour;

honour; but, I assure you, Madam, I am innocent: nothing could be more easy, than to justify myself also with him; but I have been willing to spare the reputation of a person who has the honour to belong to you, and does not merit it if she does not spare herself. She has rashly proceeded to blacken my character, and charity ought first to begin with myself. When your Grace shall have heard what I have to tell you, you will judge of the accusations that are against me; and if you find me guilty, I shall not refuse any punishment that you please to assign me.

Here I told the Duchess the same which I had told Mr. Befone, beginning with the adventures of the garden, without omitting those circumstances that rendered my situation deplorable. The Duchess made no great wonder at it; which made me imagine, that, of such like practices of her Maid of Honour, she had already had some proofs. It was natural to imagine, said she, that Madam Casardo should rather recur to the Duke, than to me; she knows that I am no stranger to her, and that I should not have lent faith so lightly to her complaints. Though I am sorry she has gained my husband in her favour,

vour, because it will not be so easy to make him change his opinion ; nevertheless I shall speak to him, and, when I find him disposed to believe me, shall not fail to make use of what you have confided in me. Rely, therefore, upon me ; I shall do all possible to justify you. I bowed, and, with my most sincere thanks, took my leave ; and went from her chamber to pass my time in the garden, till towards night, as most suitable to my melancholy thoughts. And, to tell the truth, many were the reflections which my capricious destiny suggested to me ! Was there a woman to be found, in a more unhappy situation than mine ? but, above all, it gave me trouble, that I could not find out what motive Madam Cafardo could have for using me thus ; knowing my indifference for her person, she ought to foresee, that such a black calumny must render her still more hateful to me : she could not imagine but that, by getting her ends, and becoming my wife, she would also become a victim to my just revenge and hatred. Then it could not be love that made her act in that manner, but rather rage, jealousy, and revenge ; a base, mischievous temper, that would cry because others laugh,  
and

and make herself miserable because others were content ! My greatest concern was, that I did not know how to extricate myself from the danger that menaced me from all parts ; or how to eradicate the impression which my perfidious enemy's arts had made on the Duke, and discover the wretch that had commerce with her, and who wanted to pass me as the author of his crime. All this was impossible without the particular assistance of heaven, or without running the risk of revealing my sex. The night was far advanced, nor could one discern any thing, when, in these dark thoughts, still walking in the garden, behind a sort of labyrinth, made of ever-greens, my ears were attracted by the voice of two persons, who were talking together without the least fear of being overheard : I could neither see nor be seen, because there was between us a thick hedge : I plac'd myself attentively, without moving any farther, for fear of making a noise among the leaves ; and heard one of them say, Now I cannot, because I must carry this letter to Madam, and I would give something to read it ; if one only had a light, I have the courage to open and read it, and seal it up again,

again, without even the Devil finding it out. Here is a light, said the other, taking out of his pocket a pistol tinder-box, on which he struck, and at that instant a light appeared between the leaves. I could then clearly distinguish, that he that had the letter was the villainous Buffoon, confidant to the Duke, and traitor to the person who had entrusted him with the letter, and to the one to whom it was directed. Various reflections came, at that moment, into my mind: I was almost certain that the letter was for Madam Cafardo, and that, from the same, I could find out who was her secret correspondent: this fellow who had the letter, I supposed, acted between them; and that, if I had that letter, I could have discovered their whole plot. Encouraged by these thoughts, I could have faced death that moment, and would have flown to them, sword in hand, to vindicate my cause; but heaven took compassion on me, and made me think of a method less dangerous, and more certain of success: I put my hand to my pocket, and pulled forth one of my pistols, which I had always carried about me; and then thrust it softly between the bushes, and aimed it directly at their light, which stood

stood on a marble pedestal, on which the traitor had laid the letter while he was looking for something in his pocket to seal it. I immediately let fly to the light, and knocked it out with the wind of the shot: the noise of the pistols made the two cowards scamper off, and leave the letter behind them; I ran round to the pedestal and seized the letter, which contented me as much as if I had got possession of a gold mine, and, with incredible joy, retired to my apartment.

#### C H A P. XXIV.

*Contents of the Letter, and my Disappointment on reading it.*

**W**HEN I got to my chamber, I looked at the direction, which I found to be for Madam Cafardo; I opened it to look for the name, but found none. The letter was as follows:

“ Madam,

I am impatient to know how your Italian withstood the assault from the Duke. Tell me, what shall I do, if our secret visits are to be broken? or must I see you exposed to the ridicule of the

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court?

court? two lines will be sufficient to acquaint me of your situation; but do not let Tartar see them, it is not right that he should know every thing. Love me; and I am the same still."

I found that this would justify my innocence, and prove fatal to Madam Cafardo; yet I was sorry that I did not know who wrote it. I have, said I, compassed the most important point; the remainder will be managed with less difficulty. With this consolation I went very chearfully to supper, wishing for an opportunity to take Mr. Befone into my room, and give him a narrative of what had passed.

When we were alone, I informed him of my adventure, and gave him the letter to read; but he no sooner saw the letter, than he cried, Ah! my dear child, you are entirely lost! Terrified with this, I asked him the reason? he told me, that the hand-writing was that of the Marquis of \*\*\*\*, nephew to the Duke, and that he knew the writing as well as his own. In what an unhappy affair are you embarrassed! this letter is an evident proof of an intrigue between the Marquis and Madam Cafardo; and if you offer to justify



tify yourself to the Duke, it will only increase his anger, because he would not have the reputation of his nephew blasted in such an affair, though he knew that he was in the fault : and who knows, but what the Duke himself may be a party in this plot, and would have you ruined to cover the scandal of his house ?

I asked Mr. Befone, what he would advise me to do ? I would have you, said he, go to the Duchess ; shew her the letter ; and tell her, that you would not shew it the Duke, for fear of incensing him against the Marquis : by these means, the Duchess, being convinced of your innocence, will always be your advocate with the Duke. I promised to obey him ; but had no opinion that this would be of any service to me, knowing, better than he, the secret reasons which the Duchess had, not to break with her husband. Mr. Befone then took his leave of me for that night ; and the day following he came to me, desiring me to go and dine with him at the house of a relation of his, where we found very agreeable company. I promised my readers to be sincere, even in my failings ; and intend to keep my word with them. At that dinner, I drank

a little more than I should have done ; but there was a most agreeable young lady, called Miss Gianetton, whom Mr. Besone had known a long time ; and after dinner, to divert her, he played several airs on the flute, whilst she accompanied him with her voice ; and I, being a little elevated with the liquor, did the same. My friend was surprised at my capacity, and complimented me on the sweetness of my voice ; the rest of the company did the same ; and there was now no excuse for me, but sing I must, as much as they pleased. The applause that I received from all, was incredible : they sung almost all the airs of an opera, in which Miss Gianetton had her part ; and we did not break up till towards night. When we were got home, and were sat down to supper, Madam Cafardo seemed more discontented than usual, and I attributed the cause to the loss of the letter which was fallen into my hand : it was not unlikely that Tartar, to excuse his own perfidy, would endeavour to make her believe it to be lost ; because he had been seen by her, several times, seeking about the garden, as if he had been looking for something which he had really lost.

## C H A P. XXV.

*Advice given to me by the Duchess; and my Conjectures of having found my Mother.*

**T**H E next morning the Duchess sent for me, and I had great hopes that she had some good news to communicate to me, having been informed, by the messenger, that the Duke had that moment left her chamber. On my coming into the room, Do you know, said she, that the Duke has just left me, and has not spoke one syllable about you? I protest, that the more I think on the conduct of Cafardo, the more I am astonished; and she certainly must have the most consummate assurance, to carry things to this excess. I do not know, Madam, answered I, by what base motives she is actuated; but give me leave to tell your Grace, that I can now give you the most convincing proofs of my innocence. I then put into her hand the letter from the Marquis, which she read with surprize and wonder. Here is no reply to this, said the Duchess; I could never have believed, that any woman could have gone such a length: the thing is clear, but I

do not see that you can make any use of it; it appears to me, that the Duke is no stranger to this intrigue of his nephew, and therefore he absolutely resolves to make you marry Cafardo: if this should be the case, it will be almost impossible to make him change his opinion; nor can I give you any reason to hope it: be advised by me, in these difficult circumstances; when the Duke sends for you, to know your answer, submit yourself, seemingly, to his will; but beg, as a favour of him, that he would give you time to be assured of her being with child; and that, when you are assured of that fact, you are ready to marry her, only in appearance, without obliging yourself to live with her as a husband: you will find that the Duke will be content with this; and when he thinks he has prevented any suspicion of the intrigue between his nephew and Cafardo, he'll then take no further advantage: if it has no other effect, you will gain time; and, by gaining time, you will have some hope remaining. She then ordered me to go to a particular place, to see if there was any letter from the Prince, who was a little indisposed; and I brought one, in which he told her, that

that the next day he should be out to take an airing. It will readily be believed, that my intimacy with Madam Cafardo was at an end, after she had treated me in this manner. Oppressed by the infamy she had brought on herself, she seldom left her chamber, as, perhaps, she feared my just resentment; though, as much as I was irritated against her, I could not help pitying her situation; and feared, that her remorse would make her commit some desperate thing, that might dishonour her still more. Thus my heart, compassionate by nature, spoke to me in her favour; but, whatever it said, when I thought on her failing, and on her being with child, I could not justify her in my own heart, which prized honour more than life itself. The Duke allowed me eight days to resolve on an answer. I had a good and able counsellor in Mr. Besone; and all the remedy we could find, was, to keep to the advice the Duchess had given me, and wait the event. At the expiration of the time limited, the Duke sent for me. Well, Sir, said he, have you thought on that affair? If you chuse to have my good opinion, you know how to merit it. Judge, Sir, said I, whether I desire it  
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or not, when I tell you, that I am ready to obey you, and accept of Madam Cafardo for wife: but, I beseech your Grace, to give me time to be assured of her being with child; and in the mean time, if you please, our marriage shall be in appearance only. I don't know, added the Duke; if she will be content with those conditions; though, I must own, the favour you ask cannot well be denied: I will represent the case to her, and as her honour will be thereby secured from the attacks of scandal; she may, perhaps, be satisfied; however, you shall know further to-morrow. The answer was, that Madam was content with this appearance, for the present; upon condition, that I should keep my word when the time came, and that the Duke himself should be security for my performance of the contract. Matters being thus concluded, it was, in a few days, rumoured, through all the court, that I was married to Madam Cafardo; and I received the compliments of all parties accordingly. Was not this a subject for a comedy, the most whimsical that ever made its appearance on any stage? At this early time of life, woman as I was, I had had two wives: the first was a comfort, the other  
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a horror to me ; and even she, by her sincere repentance, would have disarm- ed my anger, if other accidents had not happened, which rendered my heart, though naturally tender and compassionate, entirely averse to her. After the publication of my nuptials, I never spoke to Madam Cafardo, unless it was in company ; where, being oblig- ed to dissemble, the part was a pleasure to me, and to her the greatest torment : neither of us exceeded the bounds of simple civility ; I, because I would not, she, not for want of inclination, but, because she had not courage to do other- wise. She did not omit, however, to give me, continually, the most sensible proofs of tenderness ; hoping, by de- grees, to calm my just resentment : a day did not pass, without her sending me some present ; she did not dare even to look up at table ; every glance of her eyes was accompanied by a profound sigh, and, I may also say, with some tears.

This mute language proceeded from either her repentance, or her love, which touched me much ; and there were mo- ments in which I felt compassion for her. I did not fail to give information to the Duchess of what passed ; and she, who

who had a heart still more tender than mine, thought Madam Cafardo was sufficiently punished by the remorse of her own conscience: Mr. Befone also told me, that, as the condition remained inviolable, not to associate with her as a husband, I could and ought to treat her with more charity. So much persuasion was unnecessary, because my heart already pleaded in her favour; and if she had had the courage to break silence, her excuses would not have been badly received; nor would I, being the party offended, be the first so to do. Thus we continued for some days, only to look silently at each other; at length, over-powered by the tenderness of my nature, I resolved to be the first; and, it being her birth-day, I got up from bed with this intention; when she prevented me, by sending me, by a footman, a bunch of very fine flowers upon a silver salver: such favours I had, at other times, received from her; but, under the flowers, there was one of another species, that I should not have expected, and which again put my spirits in fresh confusion. This was a letter from her, which I opened for curiosity to see how she would justify herself: but, alas! how was I surprised, when,

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on seeing the writing, I knew it to be like, nay it was in the very same hand with which the two letters were wrote from my mother, received by me in the convent at Avignon, which I had carefully preserved : I immediately searched for them, to confront them together, and found there was not even the difference of a letter.

My thoughts were so confounded, that I knew not where I was; not doubting in the least, from the similitude of the hand-writing, but that Madam Cafardo was my mother : but, alas ! what sort of a mother did I find in her ? Unhappy me ! said I, to myself ; I no longer wonder at her cruelty to others, when she is so inhuman to her own child, whom she would, by force, have shut up in a cloyster : such a mother might well plot against my honour, who had dishonoured me even from my birth ; and if her present pregnancy is a crime, that also must have been a crime which gave me life : it is for this cause, the perfidious mother has concealed herself even from her daughter : for this, she would bury me in solitude, to hide, from the eyes of the world, the horror of her crime : I had been happier

pier never to have known her, than thus  
 to know her only to my shame! The  
 mystery of my birth, it is true, had al-  
 ways foreboded me little good; but the  
 bad conduct of which I was certain  
 Madam Cafardo had been guilty, ex-  
 ceeded my worst apprehensions. One  
 false step in a woman well born, might  
 seem pardonable in the eyes of the  
 world, and of heaven, when it can,  
 perhaps, be justified by a thousand in-  
 dispensable circumstances; but a series  
 of repeated falls, like those of Ma-  
 dam Cafardo, would admit of neither  
 pardon, or excuse. I rather chose to  
 remain an orphan, abandoned, and  
 unhappy, than confess myself daughter  
 to such a mother!

C H A P.

## C H A P. XXVI.

*My Conjectures of having found my Father.*

**I**T is now time to inform my readers of the contents of the letter which was wrote to me by Madam Cafardo; and which were as follow :

“ Dear Sir,

I am sensible, that whatever comes from me, ought to be, in your eyes, an object of horror ; but bear with me, one moment only, and you will have your revenge. Your dislike to me is very trifling, in comparison of my fault ; very great are the continual stings of my agitated conscience ; and my crime is so great, that it must be expiated only with my blood. You shall not, much longer, be troubled with the sight of my odious person ; for I am resolved to withdraw myself from the eyes of all the world : but as I cannot, even in solitude, obliterate the dear remembrance of you from my mind ; I am determined there, by my own hands, to put an end to my miserable life. I shall die contented, if you, thereby, have your revenge ; and you, in such case, will be very inhu-

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man to deny me your pardon. As I expect nothing but this from your goodness, in order to the execution of my design; should you deny me this favour, to make me die contented, heavens pardon you the fault of rendering more miserable my untimely end, I am, &c.

CASFARDO.

I read this letter more than once; and it produced in me more compassion than respect. When I reflected that those who are capable of one extreme may be equally so of another, the desperate resolution of Madam Cafardo gave me some dismal apprehensions. As I thought her life in danger, and, whatever fatal imprudence she might be guilty of, was unwilling to have the cause of it laid to my charge; I flew to her apartment, and found her in a situation not less deplorable than she had described in her letter: I found her sitting in a melancholy posture, all undressed, and neglected; her eyes swollen with tears. At first sight of me, she started up, as if she had been seized with an unexpected mixture of joy and grief; she ran to meet me, and, falling at my feet, she embraced my knees,

knees, sobbing and crying so loud, that she might have been heard in the street. I was perplexed to such a degree, that I almost repented my coming. No, dear Sir, said she, I deserve nothing but your hatred; and if I have desired your pardon, that is enough, without your honouring me so highly with your presence: I have stained my own reputation, and contaminated yours; the horror of my crime increases in proportion to your goodness; and your goodness, at present, stings me more than any thing else: by the emotion in your countenance, I am sensible that you feel some compassion for me; and if you have pity for me as your enemy, let me die by your own hand, and teach me how revenge is to be taken: no, my dear Sir, I will not depart from your feet, unless you will take this satisfaction, which I dare not give you of myself, through the fear of dishonouring you still more: kill me with your own hands, that so I may die glorious, rather than live dishonoured; and your life will become agreeable, as you would rather die a thousand deaths than become my husband: what more do you wait for? would you have me arm your hand for revenge? I have courage to

do it, as I am absolutely resolved on death— So saying, she stretched forth her arm to take the sword from my side ; but I took hold of her, and, in lifting her from the ground, saluted her twice. Overcome by my submission, she fell into such excessive grief, that I was afraid she would have fainted in my arms : No, Madam, said I, you shall not do violence on yourself : why should not I pardon in you a fault, which proceeds from your sincere regard for me ? it is sufficient, that you remember upon what condition I have accepted your hand, and that you are satisfied that we shall live together as if we were brother and sister. Ah ! Sir, replied she, even this is too much for me ; I am so far from desiring that you should consider me as a wife, that, at present, and for ever, I beseech you to consider me as one of your very humble servants : all I have in the world, is at your command ; but I wish for nothing of yours, except to have the honour to obey you : your correspondence with me is absolutely necessary, to preserve my reputation ; but if even this offends you, I care not what happens to me, provided you are content. She said a thousand other things, which might have appeased

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ed the rage of a savage; and our discourse would not have ended without my declaring myself her daughter, if another accident had not happened, which kept me, more than ever, at a distance. The letters from Paris arriving, one was brought to her, which she received with joy, saying, immediately after she had read the direction, this comes from Avignon. My heart jumped into my mouth at these words, and I changed colour; but Madam Cafardo did not observe it, because, on reading the letter, she found motives therein to disturb her more than me. The alteration in her face was so perceptible, that I suspected, immediately, what it was; and which increased my fear. As I was near her, I saw, immediately, it was the writing of the governess of the convent of Avignon: the interrupted complaints which she made at not receiving it sooner, persuaded me that the letter had remained neglected, a long time, at the post-office; and her confusion only, made me believe, at last, that it brought an account of my flight. There was no more occasion to doubt that Madam Cafardo was actually my mother; which required the greatest intrepidity in me,

not to fall in a swoon; with fear, at her feet, and betray myself. She had hardly read the letter, than she got up, and asked my leave, saying, that it was necessary for her to carry that letter to the Duke, as it concerned a daughter of his. I freely consented, wishing to be alone, that I might be able to make more serious reflections on what I had heard and seen. Oh, miserable me! said I, in my heart, that letter brings an account of my flight; and, by what I understand from Madam Cafardo, I now know my father! nor do I at all wonder that he interested himself so much in favour of Madam Cafardo, as in her he protected a mistress: but what impiety is this, that the uncle and the nephew should both be guilty of a criminal correspondence with the same woman! what sort of a woman must this be, whose passions make her trample the laws of heaven and nature under her feet! of such an unworthy passion, I am then the unhappy fruit; born into this world for my shame! . . . . Madam Cafardo, my Mother! the Duke, my Father! . . . . what felicity, upon earth, can a miserable child hope for, born of parents so unworthy of the blessings of heaven?

Ah!



Ah! I already see the dreadful sentence wrote above, that I am born to be for ever unhappy! woe to me, if the Duke knew who I was! he, who is so unjust to make me take upon me the shame of a fault committed by his nephew, will be to me a tyrant, seeing before his eyes, in my person, the image of his own crime: no, from him I can expect nothing but persecution, injustice, and cruelty, if he should ever find out that I am his daughter; which he certainly will, either sooner or later, if I forbear to withdraw myself from a place, that may be as dangerous to my life, as it has, hitherto, been to my honour. Full of these melancholy ideas, I should have immediately flown from that court; and from all France, if gratitude for the Duchesse had not persuaded me to do it in such a manner as should not give her any trouble. With these reflections came others not less important, which obliged me to change my thoughts: After I had given my word to the Duke, and Madam Cafardo, to appear in character of her husband, how could I obtain leave to absent myself from that court, without irritating both, and drawing upon my head some worse misfortune! Here I lost all prudence,

dence, my spirits languished, nor did I know of whom to take advice : my virtue alone supported me, or rather my philosophy, persuading myself to preserve more caution than ever, to dissemble with all, and to wait for a remedy from the combination of events, and the accidental circumstances of time.

## C H A P. XXVII.

*The Court goes to Versailles. A Misfortune happens to the Prince.*

**A**LTHOUGH Madam Cafardo had given me many proofs of being sincere with me, but few minutes had passed when I had new motives to suspect her. She had told me, that she was obliged to go and communicate the letter, from Avignon, to the Duke; but I found, afterwards, that from my chamber she had gone directly to the Duchess, and had tarried with her above two hours. Having occasion to speak to the Duchess soon after, I found her more thoughtful than usual, and much out of temper. This was a new mystery to me, and added to my former doubt; whether Madam Cafardo had told me the truth, in saying, that  
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the fugitive from Avignon was daughter to the Duke. During this my perplexity, the court left Fontainebleau, and went to Versailles. This was a new world to me, where every object appeared wonderful: I never, in my life, saw a more delightful place, nor so superb and magnificent a building. We no sooner arrived at Versailles, than the Duchess instructed me where to carry and receive letters to and from the Prince; this was the first, if not the only thought, that engrossed her attention. By some means or other, the Duke had a suspicion that I was privy to this correspondence, and his confidence in me decreased every day: I could not help suspecting this, though I never could arrive to a certainty, as he was too cunning to let his thoughts be perceived; but the consequence convinced me of it, and it is but seldom that I am deceived in my conjectures. I did not, at that time, take any great pains to come to the bottom of it, as the pleasures of Versailles diverted me more than usual, and, by little and little, introduced me to the great world. The first fashionable vice into which I launched, was that of gaming; which was the principal, nay the sole occupation

tion of every one there. From what I had observed in others, I had sufficient motives to take an aversion to gaming : it is begun as a diversion, and generally terminates in a downright profession : how many are deceived into it at first, who, afterwards, make it their study to live by deceiving ? I, every day, saw these examples ; but found few that could profit by these my reflections. While I was thus cautiously taking my diversions, and profiting in the school of the world, Madam Cafardo, who continued firm in her love for me, advised me of her suspicions, that the Duke was not pleased with me, and that she could not penetrate into the reason of it. I imagined that the Duchess must have known, and had recourse to her ; but she protested she knew nothing of it. But I suppose, said she, that the Duke pretends to be angry with you, to reduce you, by fear, to marry, in reality, your pretended spouse.

Who could have imagined what a barbarous design he was meditating against me ? however, I was not the first victim to his jealous fury : but to induce the reader to believe him capable of such cruelty, it is necessary first,

I should paint his character in a proper light.

The Duke of \* \* \* \* was, in his stature, little : in person, pretty fat, full of malignant humours, which the want of exercise occasioned, owing to his being so very fat : he was almost always sitting at a little table in his study ; and, because he was short-sighted, very often sat without any light. This continual thinking, and working with his brain, had weakened his head in such a manner, that he was frequently troubled with the vertigo. He passed, with every body, for a man of refined policy : but his policy was not always regulated by honesty ; he loved money, and he would put a hundred devices to work to save a few crowns. He was a most refined master in the art of dissimulation ; and would deceive people with a smile on his lips, whilst, in his heart, he was meditating their death : extremely credulous, and fanciful, he would make a body of every shade ; and of every accidental word, a mystery. It may easily be seen, that to guard against a man of this character, without first knowing him, was very difficult ; and I myself did not know him, till it was too late. I carried, one day,

day, a letter to the Ducheſs from the Prince, in which he ſignified, that, by order of the King, he was to depart, that ſame night, for Paris; and that he was to return two days after : in fact, he departed that night; and, the next morning, it was rumoured over all Verſailles, that he lay at the point of death. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the rage and deſpair which the Ducheſs gave into at this melancholy news; and my affliction was not leſs than hers, according to the obligations I had to ſo amiable a Prince, whoſe life I would have preſerved at the coſt of my own. I could have no peace for this cruel accident; the common account of which was, that he, having departed from Verſailles in a poſt-chaife, with his valet and one footman only, had been attacked, four leagues from Paris, by four men, masked, armed with blunderbuſſes; that his two ſervants were killed on the ſpot, and he himſelf was very dangerously wounded; and that the poſtillion, who had the good fortune not to be wounded, had, by dint of hard galloping, brought the Prince from out of the hands of thoſe murderers; who, having followed in vain ſome miles, at laſt turned back. Thus  
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the fact was related in general; but the advice which the Prince sent to the court, calmed our grief, by letting us know, that he was only slightly wounded in the arm, and that he hoped to be in person, in a few days, at Versailles. The court ordered the most diligent enquiry to be made, to find out the authors of this enormous attempt; but it was all in vain. The Duchess, who was much interested in that misfortune, but dared not vent herself only in my presence, let slip some words, from which I could comprehend, that she laid the fault upon the Duke, her husband; and, to tell the truth, my conjectures were not different from hers. The Duke, notwithstanding, shewed signs of affliction for the misfortune of the Prince; and, on that occasion, professed more love to me than usual. If we were not generally blind to the vicissitudes of our own destiny, I ought then to have been certain, that the Duke held me as an accomplice in the correspondence between the Prince and the Duchess, and that some misfortune also threatened me; this, in fact, was not far off, as will appear in the subsequent chapter.

## C H A P. XXVIII.

*Necessity of my Departure from the  
Duchefs.*

**B**EING under a necessity, one  
 one night, us usual, to fetch a  
 letter from the Prince to the Duchefs,  
 I had desired Mr. Befone to wait for  
 me, at a little distance from the place :  
 I had but just entered the shady walk,  
 when I was assaulted, sword in hand, by  
 two villains, whom I immediately knew  
 to be the same from whom I had taken  
 the letter in the garden at Fontainbleau,  
 directed for Madam Cafardo : know-  
 ing what cowardly wretches they were,  
 I couragiously raised my voice, and,  
 pulling out one of my pistols, I let fly  
 at one of them, and would have done  
 so with the other, but my second pistol  
 only flashed in the pan ; and one of them  
 advancing, made a thrust at me, which,  
 not being in my power to parry,  
 wounded me in the left arm : I clapped  
 my hand on my sword, resolving to  
 defend myself to the last, but ex-  
 pected nothing but death (though one  
 of them was also wounded) if Mr.  
 Befone, at the report of my pistol, had  
 not come up to my defence : seeing me  
 in



in this danger, the good old man rushed on the two villains sword in hand, and wounded them both at the first two thrusts: they did not stay for the second, but took to their heels. Mr. Besfene being anxious about my wound, which seemed to him worse than it really was, bound it up in the best manner he could, and, making me rest on his arm; conducted me back to the palace: he also knew the two perfidious villains, and declared to me on the way his surprise, supposing that they had found out that I was the person who had taken the letter from them at Fontainebeau, and that this was their private revenge; he imagined so, because he was ignorant of the secret reasons which the Duke had to hate me; but I was obliged not to mention those two infamous murderers, because they depended on him; and for many other good reasons.

The court was soon informed of what had happened to me; and this affair occasioned much talk: every one went to Mr. Besfene, to be minutely informed of the circumstance; and the lovely Duchefs took the first opportunity to fly secretly to my apartment, to be satisfied of the state I was in; and being assured that the wound was of but

little moment, ordered me, in the first place, not to stir out of my room; but Madam, answered I, as a favour I beg it, that you will not deprive me of the honour of serving you, in spite of all the world; I well know that all this is on your account, but, when I know it favours your interest, death will also be glorious to me. I am obliged to you, said she, for your generous sentiments; but, as much as you are disposed to sacrifice your life for me, so much the more ought I to engage to preserve it: if you move out of the house, I shall be in continual fear; and for which I order you not to stir, if I am not first certain that you can do it with safety: I do not know what all this means, and when it will end; but here are two horrible facts, one on the back of the other, which put me under the most dreadful apprehensions. Before the Duchess came, the Duke had sent his surgeon to visit me; and though my wound gave me pain, I refused to go to bed, as Mr. Besene insisted: and I make not the least doubt, but that every one will easily guess at my reason. The dissimulation of the Duke was not new to me, but however it did not fail of surprising me; that night I had not courage to  
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close my eyes; and, oh God! what were my reflections, my fears, and my torments! at day-break Madam Cafardo returned to me, who had been with me the preceding night, and lamented at seeing me up so early: how many merks did she give me of her tenderness, and displeasure? I had strong reasons to suspect the Duke, and she gave me to understand, that her conjectures coincided with mine, by believing him an accomplice and author of this my cruel misfortune: However this did not induce me to discover my mind. My greatest security in that court, consisted in being diffident of every one; but having many doubts which I was desirous of clearing up, I dextrously drew her into discourse. From the subject of my misfortunes, she passed to that of the Prince; and here it was that I asked her, what reason the Duke could have to attempt, as she supposed, his life? I will tell you, said she; the Prince was in love with the Duchess, and he was tenderly beloved by her, before the Duke was married: she is, by birth, an Italian; her parents conducted her very young to court, where they made a very great figure; she grew up, as I may say,

with the Prince, and with him was educated ; so that, according to their reciprocal inclinations, they had destined her as his spouse : the court interposed to break this marriage, and policy alone, which is the arbitrator and tyrant of the great, obliged the parents of the Duchess to give her in marriage to the Duke, who, for his age, might be supposed her father instead of her husband : this marriage was to her a sacrifice that had very near cost her her life. The Duke, in the first month of his marriage, was sent an ambassador to the court of Madrid, and the Duchess, by the pretext of her indisposition, prevailed upon him to leave her in Paris : you may very well imagine, that her tenderness for the Prince, instead of being less, increased in the absence of her husband. Six months after she was married, and five only after the departure of the Duke, she, unexpectedly, took it in her head to go to Madrid, and in a few days we were obliged to get every thing in order for her departure : what was the reason of this unexpected resolution, I am very well acquainted with, though I ought not to mention it ; nor shall it ever be known. In Spain we did not arrive so soon, because she would first make an excursion into Italy ;

Italy; and, being obliged by her indisposition, which accompanied her all the way, she stopped almost two months in Rome, entirely private, and, I may say, that even the air itself did not know it. The rest of the family were sent by sea; with her, there were none but me, and Madam Fralle her other maid, with whom she afterwards parted, because, she pretended, that the Duke, her husband, had a daughter by that woman. We were hardly got to Madrid, when such difference arose between her and the Duke, that, from that time, they have lived in the manner you now see. By this narrative, I got a little insight of the matter, nor could I have dared to promise myself so much. If the reader goes through these memoirs, he will see, that Madam Cafardo had not told me all; but she confessed that, to conceal a secret known only to her, she might not say any more. I no longer doubted but thatt his was the Princess of whom Duli had spoken; I knew by him that she had been brought to bed in his house, of a daughter; and this account of the supposed indisposition of the Duchess agreed with what Madam Cafardo had told me. Thus far did not seem a little in regard  
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to myself; but as Madam Fralle, the Duchess's maid, was discharged by her because the Duke had a child by her, it seemed to me as if I had found a mother in her. The Duke, thought I, had a daughter by Madam Fralle; this daughter, according to all appearance, is run away from the convent of Avignon: then I am this wretch; and I can now say, that I know who are my parents. I looked upon the force of this argument as invincible; and though of my birth I had nothing to glory in, yet, knowing that Madam Cafardo had no part whatever therein, it made me less unhappy. A very great doubt however remained, which gave me no little trouble; if Madam Fralle was my mother, how could the letter, wrote to me by my mother when I was at Avignon, be the self-same hand-writing with that of Madam Cafardo? of which there was not the least doubt. To gain a farther light in this intricate affair, which I could not get only by means of Madam Cafardo, I asked her, as if by accident, what became of Madam Fralle? she told me, that the Duke had married her to a dependant of his, and that four months ago she died in child-bed. By this I knew nothing more than before; though

though I imagined, that, not to give her husband any suspicion, she had got somebody to write for her; and that she made use of Madam Cafardo rather than any body else, she being acquainted with her fault, and enjoyed the favour of the Duke, from whence it was natural to think my maintenance came. Upon the whole, I did not know how to go further with my conjectures; but such as they were, they gave me no consolation. What did it avail knowing who was my father, if, in my father, I found a tyrant, who, perhaps, repented of having given me life, and was now menacing my death? This and the like reflections, prevented me from enjoying any peace of mind in that family, and made me resolve to get as far off as I possibly could: I wanted a pretence to leave the amiable Duchess, without giving offence, and this I thought I had found; in consequence of the misfortune that had befallen me, I could bring for an excuse, the continual danger I was in there of my life: I communicated my thoughts to Madam Cafardo, who, truly loving me, was in more terror than me, and who was not wanting, in her advice, to contrive for my safety. For charity, said she, put  
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an end to my fears, and to my tears ; retire from a place so fatal for you, nor let the Duke know to what part you are gone : though your absence will be pain to me, yet, knowing you are in safety, that pain will be alleviated : do not fail writing to me, and any thing you desire me to do, shall be punctually accomplished : fly ; begone, as soon as possible ; every moment you stay is a torment to me : for I think I see those murderers in search of you. Madam Cafardo's good persuasions were also joined by those of Mr. Befone ; and they found no great difficulty in persuading me to depart from the court, for I thought I should be in continual danger till I left it : yet I well knew, that, in the present circumstances, the Duchefs would have occasion for my assistance ; and, to prevent any other person, in my place, from betraying so good a mistress, it was absolutely necessary that I alone should carry on their correspondence.



## C H A P. XXIX.

*My Departure from the Duchess.*

**A**T the end of ten days my wound was so well healed, that I found myself able to undergo the fatigue of a journey. I went, very early in the morning, to the Duchess's apartment, and, throwing myself at her feet, with tears in my eyes, begged of her to permit me to quit her service; that not only my life was in danger, but her secret correspondence with the Prince, should they assassinate me at a time when I had any letter of hers in my hands, might be discovered; which would occasion the fury of the Duke to fall upon her likewise: now, Madam, say yes, or no: if you order me to stay, I shall obey your commands, willing to lose a thousand lives, was it in my power, for so amiable a mistress: command me, Madam; for to die in your service, will be an honour to me. No, dear Richard, replied the Duchess, I should never forgive myself, should you lose your life in my service; and should for ever upbraid myself for being the occasion of your death: for me you have already suffered enough, and

and it would be ungrateful in me to let any further mischief happen to you on my account : Go; though your departure will be a continual concern to me, heaven, I hope, will forgive me, for parting with you in so hard an extremity : tell me, however, where are you going ? and what is your desire ? for it will be a pleasure for me to see your merit rewarded ; and I will assist you to the best of my ability. This generous offer, and the thoughts of Italy, where the Count was, gave me an opportunity of telling her, that I desired to return to my friends in Italy, in a creditable manner, that they might not say my journey to Paris had proved to my disadvantage. Well, said the Duchess, the Marshal of \*\*\*\*, who commands the French army, is now in Italy ; when you leave this place, you will call at Paris, and I will give you a letter for the Prince, who will recommend you to the Marshall, with whom he is intimately acquainted ; and, without doubt, you will be advanced in the army. She immediately sat down to write me the letter : while she was writing, the thoughts of advancement ran but little in my head ; what I aimed at was, to surprize the Count when he  
least

least expected the sight of me. When the letter was finished, she presented it to me, and embraced me with a motherly tenderness, calling me, more than once, her dear child, and said, she always loved me as a mother, not as a mistress. On leaving the Duchess, I visited Madam Cafardo, to let her know of my departure the following day. She told me, that she was glad of it, notwithstanding her love for me; thinking that,, as long as I continued there, my life was in danger. She shewed me all her money and jewels, and told me, that it was all at my service. - Not having occasion for any, I told her I was obliged to her: but she insisted upon my acceptance of two hundred Louisd'ores, and told me, whenever I had occasion for more, to send to her, and I should have them. I returned her thanks for her bounty, told her I had thirty thousand livres, and that I would deposit in her hands the half, and that the remainder would be sufficient to travel with: I took my leave of her, and then waited upon the Duke, though, in my heart, I had a most just resentment against him, and dared not shew it. His obliging terms did not surprise me in the least; know-

ing very well, that he would profess a concern for my leaving the Duchess, though, at the same time, he intended my death. Sir, said he to me, you are just going at a time when I thought to recompense you, because I know that the Duchess had a great esteem for you. And for that reason, thought I, you have taken a dislike to me, and recompensed me accordingly, in seeking to get me assassinated. Are you going to Paris? said he: yes, Sir, replied I; but will not stay long there, lest my enemies of Versailles should follow me there. Do you know them? said the Duke; yes, answered I, or I am wrong in my conjectures; but when an enemy conceals himself, we have need of greater caution, and the person that seeks to take away my life, I doubt, is not far off; I could have said more, but was afraid it would occasion my own ruin. I then left him, and went to Mr. Besone, who detained me the remainder of the day: he protested that he envied my condition; and that he would also follow my example, if he could recover twenty thousand livres which were due to him, and which he would not make a present of to the Duke; but if he should happen to get it, that

the

the Duke might provide himself with another Gentleman, for he would not die in this family after having lived so long discontented with them. We afterwards talked about the method in which we should conveniently write to one another, without being discovered: I reflected, that keeping a correspondence with that court was impossible; and supposing myself the Duke's daughter, my character would be known, when my letters should be confronted with them wrote by me, from Avignon, to my mother: on the other hand, I could not but write to Madam Casar-do; and to do it with security, it was necessary I should find some expedient. Mr. Besone had by him a copy-book, from which any one might easily learn to write in a variety of different hands, and insisted on my taking it; this I with pleasure accepted, and, after the most sincere protestations of reciprocal friendship, we parted. Early next day I set out for Paris, and immediately waited on the Prince, who was surprised at seeing me. His surprise ceased on reading the letter, in which the amiable Duchess recommended me with the warmest affection. The Duchess, said he, had no occasion to

ment on the second floor, where they professed themselves greatly indebted to me for company, and insisted upon my staying to sup with them; and the niece, not less than the aunt in her ceremonies, prevailed on my staying. I then sat down to a supper, which was delicate, but not very grand, and I do not remember that ever I was in more agreeable company: they drank a great deal, and would have persuaded me to drink more; but I remembered wine had made me play the fool before, and it should not the second time. At eleven o'clock I got up to retire home; and they asked the footman if the coach was ready? who answered, yes; and lighted a torch immediately. He walked before me; and I had hardly got twenty steps down, when the light was put out, and I was attacked by two ruffians, who crammed a handkerchief in my mouth, and stripped me of all that was of any value: they then turned me into the street, and shut the doors against me. As soon as I found myself at liberty, for fear of a second assault, I ran as fast as I could out of the street; when unhappily a constable met me, and, seizing me for a rioter, immediately conducted me to prison. Oh! heavens,

heavens, with what inquietude did I pass that night ! every minute seemed a day : Just heaven ! said I, am I born to be for ever unhappy ! At last the day appeared, and I was carried before the Judge, who terrified me with his looks. I began to justify myself; but he, with a frown, bade me be silent, and answer to what was asked me. He would know who I was, my name, country, relations, profession, and age ; he told me, that he suspected I had committed some murder in the night, and then shewed me my sword, asking me, if I had not made use of it ? I answered, no. He drew it out of the scabbard, and it was all bloody ; he then enquired the reason of its being so ? but I could make him no answer. No accusation could be falser, or more apparent than this ; he imputed my silence to a consciousness of guilt ; I had nothing to testify my innocence, but named the Prince, my protector. Upon this the Judge said, do you know the Prince ? to which I answered, yes ; and if he would please to let me have pen, ink, and paper, I would write a line to him : he granted it, and I wrote as follows :

" Dear

Dear Sir, I have taken the liberty to acquaint your Highness, that I am in danger of my liberty and life. That Unhappy, who has the honour to protest himself,

Your most obedient Servant,  
 RICHARD.

The Judge dispatched the billet by a servant, who in an hour returned with the Prince, at the sight of whom my accusers trembled. He spoke to me with an obliging familiarity; saying, confess the truth, have you slain your rival? do not be frightened, it is in my power to get your pardon. I related all that happened to me since he saw me last; and when I had told the whole affair, the Judge ordered me to be acquitted, upon condition that the Prince would be answerable for my appearance, if necessary. I then went with the Prince to my own lodging, he told me, that that court of Justice, and Judge, depended entirely upon the Duke, and that it was proper for me to leave Paris as soon as possible. The next day I did not fail to wait upon him at his own palace, as he had ordered me;



me; he presented me with another gold watch of greater value than the former, with one hundred Louisd'ores, and a letter for the Marshall of . . . ., his particular friend. Go, dear child, said he, by presenting to him this letter, you will be appointed a Captain in the Burgundy regiment; if you stand in need of any thing else, write to me, and you shall have it immediately. On my parting with the Prince, I thought my heart would have burst with grief: we embraced each other as father and son; I was indeed his daughter, but heaven would not permit either of us to know it that time. I desired him to present my duty to the Duchess, when he should see or write to her; and we parted with tears in our eyes. Thus am I upon the point of leaving Paris to go to Italy, and again destitute of friends, relations, or company; left to myself, in the hands of an extravagant destiny, a fugitive from Avignon, flown from the prosecution of an unknown and cruel mother, and unfortunately fallen into the hands of one whom I suppose to be my father, and who desires my death, and forces me from Paris at the hazard of my life. Oh! had I but known what was to happen,

or

or whom were my parents, I should not then have left two of the most amiable and dearest of parents, so worthy of my love, in search of whom, had I known them, I would have gone to Paris from the utmost confines of the world. Whoever reads this, and the subsequent part of these my memoirs, will confess, that I was born to be a slave to fortune, and utterly at a loss amidst the most prudent reflections.

## C H A P. XXXI.

### *My Imprisonment in the Bastile.*

ON the day fixed for my departure from Paris, I had got every thing ready for my journey; but the inclemency of the season, and the heavy rains, obliged me to defer setting out till the next week. I went every day to see the Prince, as usual; and one morning, when the rain had ceased, I went to take my last adieu of him: but how was I surpris'd when the servant inform'd me, that, at twelve o'clock that night, he went in a post-chaise, with an officer and a footman, to Versailles, as they supposed. I immediately judg'd: that some extraordinary news from the Duchess occasioned his sudden depar-

departure. I went back to my lodging, resolving that day to leave Paris. But when I came home I found a coach at the door, and in the hall an officer that waited for me. I asked him, with a trembling voice, what was his business with me? Pray, Sir, said he, is not your name Signior Richard? I replied, yes. He then shewed me a written order to apprehend me where ever he found me; nor had I courage to ask him the reason, but was obliged to step with him into a coach which was shut all round, and drove to the gate of a prison, where another officer received me, and conducting me through a long passage, at last shut me up in a room by myself. Here was I in the most deplorable condition; and, with tears in my eyes, cried out, Oh! cruel fate, will you never cease to torment me! am I to be for ever prosecuted, and for ever unhappy? I am no sooner out of one prison, but I am hurried into another: what crime have I committed to deserve this usage? how many times have I lamented leaving my charming solitude in Avignon! what have I suffered, and how much am I yet to suffer? In the midst of these reflections, I was interrupted

rupted by the approach of a man who brought me some provision; but my sorrows would not suffer me to eat. The place I was in, I supposed to be for people of distinction; the floor was covered with a handsome carpet; there was also a large window that gave sufficient light, but was so very high that I could not look out from it; the bed was midling, and the walls were adorned with pictures: a companion, or a book, would have diverted my melancholy thoughts, but, destitute of either, I resigned myself to the will of heaven, and resolved to fix an entire dependance on Providence, which alone could enable me to subdue the greatest afflictions; and my greatest satisfaction was, that I had not committed any crime. In this dismal situation, three weeks passed without my ever hearing human voice, or seeing any person, except him who brought me necessaries; and who I thought was dumb, for he spoke not one word the whole time. One night I was awakened by a noise against the wall, at the head of my bed; I started up with fear, and, listening attentively, heard a voice which seemed to be at a distance, and called me by my name. Terrified with the voice,

voice, which I thought came from some sepulchre : I looked round the room, but could see nothing ; and was doubting whether I should answer it : noise increased, and I could hear it say the very distinctly, Mr. Richard, what are you about ? Upon this I took courage, and replied, very loudly, that in health I was very well, but in spirits much troubled. Don't be afflicted, replied the voice ; the Prince of \* \* \* \* bids you to be of good heart. At the name only of the Prince, my spirits revived ; and I asked the voice, what world it belonged too ; and whether it was in the number of the living or dead ? I am alive, replied the voice ; and have been kept here these six years. I then asked him, what place they called it ? he told me, it was the Bastile. How then, said I, do you know that the Prince desires me to be of good heart ? I heard him, said he, by the same means that you heard me ; he is in the next room to mine, and was brought here half a day before you ; and all that renders his situation better than ours, is, that he has got a servant to attend him, and we are alone. I bade him to ask the Prince, what occasioned this misfortune, and to tell him, that his condition sat more

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heavy upon me than my own; and that, if it was possible, I would hazard my life to deliver him from his confinement. The voice replied, that he would serve me immediately, and we would talk about it the next day. So saying, I tried to sleep, but could not; the Prince's confinement was worse to me than my own; I suspected no one could be the author of this base usage but the vile Duke; as for myself, I could have pardoned him; but, for the sake of the Prince, I could willingly, at that moment, have ran him through the body with my sword. The next day I was carried before the Secretary of State to be examined, who, after he had asked me several questions, desired to know my correspondence with the court of Alemaign? I answered, that my age did not permit me to have the honour to know any body in that court, and that I could give a safe oath to the contrary. The resolution with which I spoke these words, perswaded the Secretary of my innocence; and his pleasant countenance embolden'd me to beg the favour of a book, to divert my tedious hours: he readily granted it, saying, I might have whatever I pleased. When I went back to my room, the  
keeper

keeper asked me, if I liked company ? to which I answered, that we were born for society, and that I liked it, if it was agreeable. Well then, says he, you have a neighbour in the next room, and I will leave the doors open, that you may be together all day, if you please.

## C H A P. XXXII.

*The History of a Learned Man I met with in the Bastile.*

**M**Y readers will readily believe that my keeper had no occasion to persuade me to go into the other room; the moment I saw the door open, I flew into it, and embraced my new companion, who, with incredible joy, said, Is it possible, that after a six years mournful solitude, I have, this day, the pleasure of your company ! These words banished the thoughts of my short imprisonment, and all other misfortunes ; we immediately agreed to dine together ; and at my expence, I ordered four bottles of Burgundy, and at the same time gave the keeper a present. Janneson, which was the name of my new comrade, no sooner heard me speak of Burgundy wine, but his

heart leaped for joy ; before we dined I called out loudly for the Prince, who, hearing my voice, answered me. I told him of my examination before the Secretary of State, and how I answered him; he replied, that he was informed of all, and bade me be of good heart, for that in a few days we should be at liberty. This good news made me keep good cheer with Jameson, who, at the sight of the four bottles of Burgundy, ran to meet them, saying, this room is now turned into a wine-cellar, and if I could get such good cheer every day, I should be content to stay here all my life. His comical expressions, during dinner, diverted me much. After dinner, he must needs tell me the principal adventures of his life, and, taking a large glass of wine, went on as follows :

Do you know, said he, *imprimis & ante omnia*, that France was once my country? but having nothing there belonging to me, I can say, that my country is all the world ; a head full of Greek, Hebrew, and Latin, was all the patrimony left to me by my parents. The prejudice of the Protestant religion, sucked in with my milk, made in me the strongest impressions : I took a voluntary



luntary farewell of my native country, and ran away to Switzerland, fixing my residence in the Protestant canton of Berne. In a strange country, without protection, without employment, without Friends, and with very little money, through want of necessaries, and for an honest maintenance, I was obliged to have recourse to my natural talents, which I had cultivated with extreme attention, I directly commenced author, and had some of my works printed; here, from morning till night, I was continually writing; the work I did not mind, because I gained by it, and met with applause from those who read my works; but this was not my aim, for to live there wanted money, not applause; and I never read of an antient or modern philosopher, who, to gain praise, would be content to die with hunger: tho', I thank heaven, I had no occasion to be discontented with my livelihood; but in the most serious resolutions we are inconstant, and a thing out of sight should be out of mind: but come, let us leave these morals in my books, in which there are plenty — Here he took another glass of Burgundy; and then proceeded: The love of my country made me long

to see Paris, and I have gained much by coming to see it; curse the day that ever I came into it, I wish the horses legs had been broke that brought me; fifteen days did not pass before I made acquaintance with a wine-merchant's daughter, who seemed to my eyes most beautiful; and being of an age when reason gives way to inclination I was in a few days, mad with love. The father of this beautiful damsel did not make me languish long; for no contract could be sooner established than mine was, though it is a merchandize that a person should take more time about than I did. You may think that economy in expences is a very necessary virtue in the wife of one who writes for his bread; but she would not hearken to this discourse, and, not to have the devil to pay in my house, I was obliged to keep an elegant table, and to see consumed in one day, as much as cost me the fatigue of a whole year; and if I had been able to have wrote ten times the quantity, it would not be sufficient to defray her extravagant expences. Human ingenuity is like the ground, which does not give fruit every day; and when it does, the produce must have time to ripen: an author, to  
convert

convert his works into cash, must depend upon others; and when they gain a favourable sale amongst the public, the bookseller must have the first share in the profit: by this you must think, that the writer does them for a trifle; to persuade my wife of this truth, was putting the house in an uproar; she made the bill before they were concluded, and spent the price of them before I received it: if I spoke about affairs of the house, she tore every thing that was in her way; I was therefore obliged to be silent for fear of worse: in one word, Sir, if a person desired revenge on another, they need only wish him a wife of this stamp: at last, tired of writing without profit, I frequented a coffee-house to avoid quarrels at home, and it was my perverse fortune to fall in company with some news-mongers, and politicians, which is a dangerous trade, especially in war-time: I picked up all they said, turned news-writer, and undesignedly let something slip out which aggravated the government: they sent an officer to my house to pay me a visit when I least expected him, he made me rise out of bed at the break of day, and, putting me into a coach, conducted me to the Bastille, where I have

have been six years, and have the honour of eating the King's bread, without being troubled with books, or plagued with my wife: I am, it is true, deprived of my liberty; but I have the pleasure of being quiet; the world I know what it is, and do not desire to be in it for fear of having my wife at my side again, from whom I would go a mile under ground: here I can eat without thinking of any thing; and if I had a flask of Burgundy every day, I would present a petition to the government to keep me here all my life, if Plato himself was in my case, he would do the same. With these and the like discourses Janneson diverted me every day; but our maxims were different, and I had other motives to desire my liberty. In a few days the Prince was released, and, before he went out, assured me, in person, that he would shortly procure my liberty: notwithstanding which I remained there two weeks longer. I was, tis true, permitted to take the air with my comrade upon the top of the Tower, from whence I could see all Paris; but this sight to me was a new torment: if I had set out two days sooner, thought I, nothing of this would have happened, and I should

should have been with Count Termet; but heaven would not permit it; and for what is past there is no remedy.

### C H A P. XXXIII.

*The Vicissitudes of Fortune after my Release from the Bastile.*

**A**T length the time came when heaven was pleased to deliver me from my imprisonment, and the good Prince contributed not a little to hasten it. Before I came out, I gave Jannefon some linen, and twelve pistoles. In going out, I met, at the foot of the stairs, the Prince's Gentleman, who took me into a coach, and conducted me to my own lodging, where I was received with much joy. I would immediately have paid a visit to the Prince, but they told me, that when he came out of the Bastile he went directly to Versailles. I was receiving the congratulations of the family, when Madam Cafardo and Mr. Besone came in: the sudden joy of so unexpected a visit, drew tears from our eyes; though my joy was considerably abated, by Madam Cafardo's advising me not to acknowledge publicly that she was my wife: this occasioned in my mind fresh suspicions, and I desired

fired to know her reason for it: she told me, a Chevalier, whose name she did not remember, was with the Duchess at Versailles, soon after my commitment to the Bastile, who seemed very much displeased at my imprisonment; and that this was the reason of her desiring me to keep it secret, lest it should be a displeasure to this my relation, as she supposed he was. I could not conceive who this was, though Mr. Besone gave me also a particular description of him. In the mean time we discoursed about the Duchess, and they told me, that, after the Prince's imprisonment, she was so disgusted with the Duke, that she would see him no more; that the Prince every day, since he was acquitted, went to pay her a visit, and that the Duke took no more notice of it; Madam Cafardo likewise told me, that there was a project in agitation, which, if known, would make a great noise in the world. After this she gave me a letter from the Duchess, full of the most tender expressions; in which she desired to see me before I left Paris. I was reading this letter when a gentleman knocked at the door, and enquired for me; the servant informed him that I was engaged in company, and that he did not know whether

whether I would chuse to see any body at that time. Be assured, replied the stranger, that your master will be glad to see me. I, hearing these words, and knowing the voice, ran to the door: Oh, heavens! how rejoiced was I see my dear friend Mr. D'Arcore; he squeezed me by the hand, so overcome with joy that he could not utter one word; and so great was my surprize, that I was almost stupified myself, and could hardly believe my own eyes: I asked my generous friend, if I had not been the sole occasion of his flying from Lyons in order to my assistance? He told me, he had read of my being put into the Bastile, in the Gazette at Lyons, and that he immediately came to Paris to give me a character, if requisite; that he made all possible interest with the Governor of the Bastile, but could not get admittance to see me; he then flew to the Duchess, at Versailles; who told him, that my fate should not be worse than it was; and that he would not leave Paris till he saw me at liberty. Where could I find expressions to return him thanks for his benevolence? could generosity or friendship do more than this? I already had given orders that we should dine all together; during  
dinner,

dinner, Mr. D'Arcore kindly upbraided me for not having wrote to him: but once since I left Lyons: this really was a crime that could not admit of excuse; but my sex are seldom at a loss for one, and I told him, that as I designed to call at Lyons very soon, I would not trouble him with insignificant letters, and intended to surprise him when he least thought of me: the excuse was passable, but I had no sooner drawn myself out of one net, than I was caught in another: then, replied Mr. D'Arcore, I will take you at your word; to-morrow I am going to Lyons, and you can bear me company: here I was puzzled how to answer, but Madam Cafardo brought me off, by saying, Sir, this is impossible, for my mistress, the Duchess, desires to see him at Versailles.: to this he made no reply, for my waiting upon the Duchess was indispensable: I was also indebted to pay the Prince a visit before I left France, that he might renew my recommendations for Italy; and Mr. D'Arcore could not defer his journey one day longer. We stayed at table till almost night; the next morning he went for Lyons, and we for Versailles. Gratitude, respect, and, I believe, nature, directed my first steps towards



wards the Duchess; she related to me all that had happened since I had left her, and said, that, upon the Prince's and my imprisonment, she had left the Duke; and, if it was possible, would get a divorce, having just motives to separate from each other. Believe me, said she, this is not owing to the heat of my temper, or the blind transports of an amorous passion; I have long thought, and am continually thinking of it; and that you may be convinced how much I confide in you, you are the only person that can assist me in this difficult undertaking; and it is necessary that you go from hence to Avignon, to transact some business for me, of which I will inform you to-morrow.

At the name only of Avignon my blood ran cool in my veins, and it was a difficult point for me to conceal from the Duchess my agitation: I answered her, however, that I should be disposed for immediate performance of her orders, and that it would be an honour to me to serve her. I could not help suspecting that it was something concerning myself, and had almost asked her what it was about; but, upon reflection, I thought it most adviseable for me to enquire of Madam Cafardo, who,

I suspected, know of every thing. The Duchess, more than once, told me, that, as I had suffered so much for the Prince, he would, assuredly, make my fortune; she asked, if I still persisted in my resolution of going to Italy? I answered, yes. Well, said she, we shall see one another again; in the mean time, I will think of what I can do for you. Who would have imagined that the Duke, after so much ill-usage, would fain have persuaded me that he was still my friend? he kept me above an hour in his apartment; and spoke to me so open-hearted, desiring me to come and lodge in his palace, that it was a difficult matter to avoid accepting his offers, which I judged prejudicial to my life and liberty. The thoughts of the journey, projected to me by the Duchess, was constantly in my mind; I took the first opportunity to ask Madam Cafardo, if she could give me any light in this affair? I can, replied she, and I will tell you, in a few words, all that I know about it: this journey, to the Duchess, is of the utmost consequence; she being disgusted so much against the Duke, wants to separate herself from him: I informed you before, that the Duke had a child  
by

by Madam Fralle, waiting-maid to the Duchess, and this child is the foundation of her scheme of separating from the Duke : this girl has been left in Avignon to be educated, without being permitted to know who were her parents : within these few months she has eloped from Avignon, and, if she cannot be found, this scheme of the Duchess will prove abortive : you are to go to Avignon in search of her, and, if she is not there, you must come back to testify that she has been there, that she is ran away, and is not to be found : the thing is easy for you, being a certain truth which cannot be doubted, for she has been there six months ago ; but, oh Duchess ! I can almost foretell what will happen in this case : the Duke, finding himself attacked in this manner, will absolutely defend himself, and it will be no difficult matter to deny a fact that is but now first published ; therefore this will be of no prejudice to him : those who seek, very often find what they little expect ; and she, in trying to discredit her husband, will only discredit herself.

These reflections, answered I, are very just, and I wonder you do not mention them to the Duchess herself.

to drive such dangerous thoughts from her mind: Madam Cafardo said she had, but from her mouth they did not prevail, the Duchefs supposing that it was fear dictated them. Do you try, said she, if you can prevail with her; but I doubt it, because she never told you all that is past; nor can you speak to her like me, because I know what you do not. To this, said I, I cannot answer, for there are secrets that the women never will betray; when once they have entertained an opinion, it is hard to remove it; and the disgust she has to the Duke will never be at an end. Madam Cafardo was, at that instant, called away to the Duchefs; and I returned to my apartment with a mind oppressed with melancholy, and the most painful reflections on what course I should pursue.

C H A P.

## C H A P. XXXIV.

*Commission received by me, from the Duchess, to go to Avignon; and, after that, to Italy, in search of myself.*

**T**HE situation I was in, to any one, except myself, must have appeared really diverting: I was the fugitive of Avignon, and was to go in search of myself; the Duchess loved me with the tenderness of a mother, and yet I was to be the sole executrix of her just revenge: these comic ideas, far from giving me pleasure, made me no longer doubt that I was daughter to the Duke; yet I wondered, as the Duchess knew of this conjugal infidelity of her husband, that she did not resent it before; at the same time I thought, that not to execute this commission of the Duchess, would be abusing her bounty, and merit her disdain for ever; and to obey her orders, would be the same as to discover myself, and lay open to the world, the stain of my birth; in short, I could not find out a better method than to make off, without the privacy of any one, from such an intricate and subtil court. In opposition to this resolution, there were, in my heart,

some sentiments of regard towards the Duchess, which I could by no means account for; nor did I know whether it proceeded from conveniency or nature: I thought, if I treated her amiss, it would be ungrateful; and if I acted otherwise, it would be cruel to myself. Confused between these two sentiments, of love and gratitude, I knew not which part to take; at last my doubts were reduced to two points, whether I should manifest myself to be what I really was, or take frankly the journey for Avignon, and wait the change and circumstances of time: having to do with a man like the Duke, it might cost me my life; and to discover myself to the Duchess, would be disclosing a secret as dear to me as my life: I then resolutely resolved to do neither the one nor the other; and contented myself with hoping that the Duchess's resolution might be disapproved by the Prince, and her opinion, by his persuasions, changed. In the mean time she sent for me, and I went as if I had been going to execution. You must, said she, at the first word, dispose yourself for departing; I will give you some letters to the governors of Avignon, and for others of my dependents, of whom  
you

you must inform yourself, what is become of a young girl, called Miss D'Arville, who is mentioned in the letters : she is, though you are a stranger to this matter, daughter to the Duke, who had her by one of my waiting-maids, after he was married to me ; nor can I separate myself from him till I can produce this girl, or at least testify, by witnesses, that she has been there, and is gone off : but take care, when you are in Avignon, not to mention my name in this affair ; and regulate yourself by what the people, whom I write to, say to you. All is well, Madam, answered I, I shall not fail of performing your orders ; but to satisfy your inclinations, must you make so much noise in the world ! are you not separated already ? and do you not live as you please, without any one's daring to reflect on you ? This is not sufficient, replied she ; my honour is at stake, and I am desirous that my separation from the Duke may be justifiable in the eyes of the world, and properly authenticated : thus being at liberty to marry whom I please, I shall also be able to dispose, at my discretion, of all my wealth, which is superior to that of the Duke.

At

At the time I write this, I cannot but wonder, that even in the noblest souls, vile interest will sometimes predominate: in a sentiment so mean, I think the Duchess not worthy of an excuse; I, that was so much inferior to her, should have been ashamed to express myself in that manner. While she was telling her mind, I was thinking what method I should take: it was lucky for me, that she allowed me fifteen days before I was to set out, in which I thought I could resolve what to do.

From the Duchess's apartment, I went to the Prince: he received me with his ordinary civility, asking me, how long it was since I had seen the Duchess? I told him, I had just left her; and that she was talking about a journey for me. I suppose, said he, it is that of Avignon; and, upon my honour, I believe the Duchess is going out of her senses: she would fain make herself easy, and is taking a method to augment her troubles; but I dare not oppose her opinion: if she desires you to go, you must go; but as you do not set out these fifteen days, possibly, in that time, some accident may happen which may make her change her mind.

Could



Could I have entertained such hopes, I should not have hastily taken a resolution which cost me so many tears; and might have cost me my life. What I require of you, said the Prince, is, that, if you should go, you manage, in Avignon, the affair of the Duchess with the utmost delicacy: I am already sufficiently persuaded of your zeal and discretion towards my interest; and therefore shall acquaint you with some matters, to which you are a stranger. I imagined, that I had known more than him in this case; happy would it have been for me, had I not trusted too much to my own knowledge: my curiosity was always of service to me; but on this occasion I was not at all curious, because I was to be still unhappy: could I have had patience to wait for the Prince's instructions, I should not have formed a resolution, than which I never made a worse in all my life: my temper was such, as I have observed before, that, in the heat of my passion, no reflection was able to withhold me from a resolution once taken.

No scheme could be more imprudent or more resolute than mine, when I determined to leave Versailles, and  
Paris,

Paris, without acquainting any one of my intentions, at the hazard of affronting two persons who could have found me where ever I went; and who, on suspicion of my disclosing what they had revealed to me, must certainly have desired my death: nevertheless, I judged that such a step was necessary for me, and this seemed to me reason sufficient; and, in order to execute it in the manner my circumstances required, I procured a pass-port, and a post-chaise, under pretence of going to Paris for two days only; and, in the dusk of the evening, I mounted my chaise, with all my baggage, and, without bidding adieu to any one, set forward on my journey. I took the road for Italy, with an intention not to pass by Lyons, lest the news of my flight had reached that place. I had letters of recommendation from the Prince to the Marshall of \* \* \* \*, that commanded the French army in Italy; and I trusted they would answer my purpose, because I intended, when I arrived at Piedmont, to write to him by another person, and implore, from his generosity, my pardon: to gain it, thought I, will not be difficult; and Madam Cafardo will not fail to speak in my favour.

vour. The Duchess, deprived, by my absence, of the instrument of her intended revenge, will surely give over all thoughts of vindicating herself; and it would be more grateful in any one to intercede to her for my pardon, than to exclaim against me: the worst they could impute to me was, either that I must be the daughter of the Duke, or, that I had only been disobedient to their order; which was a matter of indifference to me, when I might perhaps never see them more. These reflections encouraged me to leave Versailles; and whatever happened to me afterwards, I resolved never to blame my own conscience for it. No one, at court, could know of my flight, for the space of two days after; and then I should have no occasion to trouble myself about their conjectures.

## C H A P. XXXV.

*My Departure from Paris, and the Consequences thereof.*

**W**HEN I had got about forty leagues distance from Versailles, the axle-tree of my chaise, by a sudden jolt, broke in the middle; and while the postilion was repairing the damage, a gentleman on horse-back rode up to me, and alighted from his horse to assist me; but seeing that it would take some time to put it in order, and that it was impossible for me to arrive at Valenciennes before night, he kindly offered me such accommodation as his house afforded, and which, he told me, was not above the distance of a musket-shot from that place, and promised, in the mean time, to get my chaise mended as it ought to be; and to-morrow, said he, you may proceed on your journey. This obliging offer, to a person in my circumstances, could not fail of being agreeable; and though his appearance gave me no very favourable ideas, he expressed himself with so much civility, that I could not refuse his invitation. His head was covered with a wig, which looked like spun-yarn;

yarn; his coat was serge, of a Frier's grey, which seemed to have been turned ten years ago; his waistcoat was laced with gold, but looked older than himself; his breeches were grey linen; and, in short, between his own figure and that of his horse, there was little difference; for, the horse looked as poor as himself. We walked together a considerable way, and, at last, arrived at a long valley, from whence I could discover Mr. Alliot's house, which was not higher than a hay-stack. I do not conduct you, said he, to a Louvre, or to Versailles; but to the house of a poor gentleman, where you shall not want a good bed, nor any necessary refreshments. With such like discourses we arrived at his house. In truth, he told me no lye, in saying that he did not conduct me to the Louvre, or to Versailles; for his yard was full of dirt, and lumbered with straw; and I scraped my shoes, to go into a room full of rubbish: on my entry, I was complimented by Madam Alliot, who, turning to her husband, asked him, if he was not ashamed to bring me into such an incommoded house? Soon after, his nephew came in, with a large parcel of woodcocks, quails, and other

game, which he had killed that afternoon, and which, being dressed, afforded us an elegant supper. At the proper time, we retired to rest; and early next morning, my chaise being ready, I took my leave of Madam, returning her a thousand thanks, nor did I suspect that Mr. Alliot would accompany me, but he insisted that he would, and we arrived both together at Valenciennes; from whence we proceeded to the famous abbey of St. William; and Mr. Alliot, as if he had been master, gave orders to unharness the horses, and put them in the Abbot's stables, and then desired to see the Abbot: when he came out, Mr. Alliot made him a very low bow, telling him, that he was charged to accompany that young gentleman (meaning me) to see the most curious places in the province, and that he thought it his duty to shew him the famous abbey of St. William; therefore hoped to be excused for this liberty. The courteous Abbot replied, that it was doing him a particular favour; and immediately conducted us into a genteel apartment; when he offered us some refreshment. No, no, replied Mr. Alliot, we'll keep our stomachs for supper, and we shall not then be in danger

danger of doing wrong to the generosity of our host; and, while the supper is getting ready, we will take a walk in your garden to gain us an appetite. Gentlemen, said the Abbot, I will keep you company. We are obliged to you, replied Mr. Alliot, but don't disturb yourself, nor us neither. Though Mr. Alliot's discourse was quite free and unpolished, it was so natural, and accompanied with so much affability, that no one could take it amiss.

## C H A P. XXXVI.

### *My Arrival at Turin.*

**M**Y companion, after leaving me some moments in the garden, returned, saying, that we should have an elegant supper, for there were two dishes which the Abbot was very fond of; and if the cook did not dress them properly, the Lord have mercy on him. In truth, we had a fine supper; and Mr. Alliot assured me, that he would engage I should be more elegantly entertained the next day. To this I replied, that I must absolutely depart the next day, and proceed on my journey. There is no occasion for such hurry, says he; here is plenty of the best provision,

vision, and nothing to pay for it but good words. This sort of œconomy did not agree with my spirit; but I had to do with a man from whom I knew not how to disengage myself. At length, however, I found an excuse to depart in two days from the Abbey. I thought, if I left it without shewing some token of my gratitude, I should seem ungentle; and therefore I took occasion to speak to the Abbot alone, and present him with a gold snuff-box, given to me by Mr. D'Arcore, and which was worth about seventy ducats. The œconomy of my companion, on this occasion, made me prodigal; and although my liberality might exceed proper bounds, I should have rather been quite poor, than have shewn myself mean-spirited, or acted ungratefully. In the evening we arrived at Mons, and I feigned to go to Brussels the next morning; by this means I got rid of Mr. Alliot, who returned to Valenciennes. Before I set out on my journey, I wrote a letter to Madam Cafardo; in a character copied from Mr. Besone's book, that my true hand-writing might not be discovered: I gave her the reason of my sudden departure; desiring her to find out the sentiments of the Duchess concerning



cerning me, and to write to me at Turin, without informing any one where I was, I would willingly have wrote to Mr. D'Arcore, but was fearful of being discovered, and determined to defer it till my arrival in Italy.

From Mons to Turin, nothing happened worthy of attention. The situation and beauty of that city, I will not say it surpris'd me, but it pleas'd me extreamly : if there were not not magnificent palaces, as in Paris, and in other cities of Italy, yet the spaciousness of the streets, and regularity of the buildings, exceeded what was to be seen in other places. I took a lodging with intent to stay some time at Turin, that I might get an answer from Madam Cafardo, to know what was said of me at that court. Being one night at the opera, I went into the stage-box, and was surpris'd at being saluted by one of the singers as if she had known me before : I could not, by her face, find out who she was ; till I rose up, and went from my box to the scenes, when, coming nigh her, I knew her to be Miss Giannetton, Mr. Befone's friend : I was surpris'd to see her in that way of life, neither had she time to tell me any thing, but desired the favour of my company when the opera was ended.

Accordingly I went to the door to wait for her; and when she came out she took me by the arm, as is common with ladies of her profession, and made me step into the coach, which conducted us to her house. A distinction of this nature made every one believe that I was a favourite of that beauty, and had made a conquest of no little moment: I heard an observation of this sort, as we were going into the coach; at which she laughed; and I, in my own mind, had more reason to laugh than she. I shall say nothing of her apartment, only that it was compleatly furnished; and before I had the honour of being noticed, I must wait till she undressed at her leisure, to give me an opportunity of seeing her wardrobe; and, under pretext of washing her hands, she shewed me her toilet, which was adorned with a variety of silver trinkets: if she had spared this trouble, it would have done her more honour; wealth of this sort, procured in so short a time, I suspected, must have been got in no very creditable manner. After having given me this ostentatious display of her riches, which certainly were not the fruits of a rigorous virtue, Miss Giannetton insisted on my staying to sup with her, and entertained me like a Prince:

at

at this I did not wonder, as I well knew that people of the theatres were generally very extravagant. That air of feigned greatness, which they assume on the stage, is not forgot when on plain ground; and in domestic conversation, they aim to mimic their superiors, with a contempt for all others, which renders them truly ridiculous. Miss Gianetton was not old in the art, yet she had adopted all these prejudices, as if she had been of the profession from her childhood. When supper was over, I took my leave of her, and the next morning my pretended conquest was rumoured all over Turin.

The idle life which I led at Turin, in waiting for the letters from Paris, made me consider the conversation of Miss Gianetton, and the talk of the country, as a pastime, which a little flattered my vanity; I continuing to visit her, she continued to distinguish me. whether it was through the affection which she conceived for me (as I afterwards found) or with the hopes of gaining advantage, as the women of her character do, by being so intimate with me, she tormented me in such a manner with her kindness, that she would not leave me one hour's liberty; I passed whole days at  
her

her house, because it was delightful, and her conversation lively; and because I had no other acquaintances there, every one envied my happiness, and at their envy I laughed; but had I foreseen what was to happen, I should have had little cause to glory, and they less to envy me.

### C H A P. XXXVII.

*Plundered by a Servant, and assisted where  
I least expected it.*

**O**N E night, when I had remained later than usual at Miss Giapetton's, I waited for my footman to come with a light, because the night was dark and rainy; and not having seen him from twelve o'clock that day, I judged he was got in liquor, and did not think how late it was: after having waited till past midnight, I went home by myself, resolving to discharge him the next morning: I had the key of my apartment, which had no connection with any other part of the house, and, as there was no light, I was obliged to strike one: in undressing myself, I had occasion to go into my closet where I put my cloaths, which I opened with a beating heart, as if I had foreseen the  
villainy

villainy, when, to my surprize, I found it empty ! I immediately ran to the bureau, where I put my linen, and all my jewels, and money ; I found it broke open, and not the value of a half-penny left ! Oh God, how was I struck motionless at this sight ! the tears came into my eyes, and I was ready to drop into a swoon at this sudden misfortune : my perfidious villain of a footman had plundered me of all ; for having a key of my apartment, he went in and out as he pleased, with an excuse of putting it in order. Thus I lost every thing but what I had upon my back ; I had, it is true, the gold watch the Prince gave me, but very little money in my pocket. My situation was most deplorable ; and the only desperate council my confusion suggested to me, was, how to proceed on my journey to Lombardy, where the French army was ; how to subsist in Turin, till I had back the money I left with Mrs. Cafardo ; and who to run to, at that hour, to get some account of the villain, or from whom to get any thing towards my support. The sum I had lost was not trifling ; for I brought with me, from Paris, as much as would have maintained me some years : what I had remain-  
ing

ing was but little ; one half I must expend to equip myself for my journey, and to make a competent figure in the army ; the other half would be exhausted in travelling expences : I should have nothing to help myself in time of need.

With these uneasy thoughts I passed the whole night, and not one soul to comfort me ; I owed the landlady for two weeks board, nor had I another shirt to shift myself when the one I had on was dirty ; and to appear in genteel company, it was necessary I should make a decent appearance. The news of my misfortune was, the next morning, spread all over the city ; but no one offered me the loan of a single ducat. I was sitting in a coffee-house, receiving the fruitless compassion of others, when, at about twelve o'clock at noon, I was called aside by a person, of whom, during the past night, I had not, in my confusion, entertained even the least thought ; this person was no other than Miss Gianetton, who came and conducted me to her own habitation, with the tears in her eyes, lamenting my sad misfortune : it is impossible to express the various methods she made use of to lessen my troubles, which almost deprived me of my senses. Her expressions  
and

and actions, being correspondent with each other, convinced me of the sincerity of her intentions: I always believed, that in women of her profession, vile interest was their ruling passion; but on this occasion, I was very certain, that, in Miss Gianetton, love prevailed: it affected her less in making me the offer of one hundred pistoles of her own to supply my necessity, than it did me in accepting of them. The necessity, however, to which I found myself reduced, obliged me, though contrary to my inclination, to embrace her offer; nor was this all, for Miss Gianetton shewed herself still more generous towards me; and doubting whether the supply I was in expectation of from Paris, was not a pretence, invented by me to conceal my shame, she insisted upon immediately providing me with all necessities: I opposed her resolution, but in vain; and not to affront her, was forced to let her act as she pleased. Having accepted what I wanted under the title of borrowing, and upon condition of reimbursement as soon as possible, I wrote to Madam Cafardo of my state, related to her how much I was indebted to my benefactress, and begged she would remit me the money

I left

I left in her hands, to satisfy the obligations I was under.

In a few days after Miss Gianetton had obliged me in this particular manner, she acquainted me, that she had a great regard for my person, and, in short, that she was willing, if agreeable to myself, to become my wife : I was not a little surpris'd at her proposal, and knew no better method to bring myself off with honour, than by telling her, that I already had a wife at Versailles, from whom I was not separated, though my duty at present called me to the army. I dreaded the consequences which even this reasonable excuse might produce, supposing Miss Gianetton to be really in love with me; but I found, to my great satisfaction, that her affection had not taken very deep root. Her view was, by marrying me, to enlarge the profits of her profession as a singer, to which she thought my knowledge of music would be no small addition : she was desirous, as I before observed, of mimicking her betters in grandeur and magnificence; and let slip no opportunity in her power to support that character.



## C H A P. XXXVIII.

*Letters received from Versailles ; and new  
Dangers of my being discovered at  
Turin.*

**S**OME days after my misfortune at Turin, I was informed, by good authority, that Count Termes was with his regiment in Pavia, I had a great inclination to write to him, to give him another proof of my constancy : it was requisite for me to write in such a manner, that he might not find out where I was ; accordingly I sat down, and wrote to him as follows :

“ Dear Sir,

This is the second Letter that I write you, without acquainting you of the place of my abode, or what is the reason for my concealing it from you. Wherever I am, it is sufficient to inform you, that I love you as much as ever ; and rely upon the honour of your promises. With these hopes, I flatter myself, that in a few weeks we shall see each other, and will inform you in person of what I dare not in writing. I am all at your service,

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Not only this, but the other letter also fell into the Count's hands, as I was afterwards informed, though both were rather cause of inquietude than content to him. My intricate method of writing kept him utterly in the dark ; and if I had explained myself more clearly, even in this last letter, I should have seen him a great deal sooner, and my troubles would not have begun at a time when I expected they would have been finished. Carrying the letter to the Post-office, I found one from Paris, wrote to me by Madam Cafardo, in answer to that I sent from Mons. You may easily believe with what eagerness I opened it, to know how the Duchess proceeded after my sudden departure ; and my heart beat with the apprehension of hearing the Duchess's exclamation against me : but how agreeably was I disappointed, when I found all contrary to what I expected. The first thing which presented itself to my eyes, was a Bill of Exchange, of four hundred pistoles, inclosed therein. The contents were as follow :

“ Sir,

My concern for your departure is greatly diminished by the news that you gave

gave me of your health and safety. The Duchess would have reason to be angry at your conduct, provided her regard for you was less; but her love has expelled every principle of resentment from her heart, and her utmost wish is to know to what place you are flown. Her discords with the Duke are still the same, and she has not laid aside the thoughts of separating from him; but being deprived of your assistance, has taken other methods of proceeding. In the mean time, that you may not be straightened in your expensive journey, I send you a bill of four hundred pistoles, without diminishing the capital left in my hands. And, with assurance of my tender affection for you, I am always the same.

CAFARDO."

Considering what had passed between me and Madam Cafardo, her generosity surprised me much: she gloried in assuring me, by these presents, of the sincerity of her repentance; and tho', at first, I hated her through revenge, yet to love her for this token of her affection, was now a duty incumbent on me. The account of the Duchess's bounty

bounty towards me, and the timely assistance of the money sent by my supposed spouse, without my asking for it, or she knowing the necessity I was in, were equally a comfort to me. I was anxious, in the first place, to repay the money to Miss Gianetton.

On the morning that I presented to Miss Gianetton, unexpectedly, the one hundred pistoles which she had lent me, and fifty more which she had laid out in cloaths for me, she was greatly astonished at it well knowing that the answer to my letter, wrote to Paris, could not be arrived yet : she knew not what to think, nor could conceive where I borrowed that sum; she said to affront her; and, to satisfy her, I was obliged to shew her the letter from my wife : this convinced her of the fact ; but she had no sooner entered the play-house in the evening, than she indulged her vanity, by acquainting the other actors of my punctuality in repaying what she lent me, and of the large remittance which I received from France, representing it as double the value of what it was ; and the opinion they entertained of me, in consequence of this change in my circumstances, might be easily perceived by their behaviour.

A few days after I received another letter from Madam Cafardo, in answer to that I wrote from Turin, and, in bills, the sum of money I had wrote for. I was now again in a state to make a decent appearance in the world, and to proceed on my journey for the army: I would not stay to look after what I was rob'd of; Miss Gianetton persisted on my staying in Turin till the season for the operas was over, after which she would go with me to Italy: this was sufficient to hasten my departure; my heart was naturally grateful, and the obligations that tied me to Miss Gianetton were inseparable. One day, after dinner, I was walking towards the citadel, and observed in a coach, amongst other persons, a young lady, who gazed at me with attention, as if she had known me before: I passed carelessly by, and her face did not seem new to me: the coach on a sudden stopped, and a nobleman, who was in it, called to me, saying, Sir, this lady desires the honour of speaking to you: the honour, Sir, will be mine, replied I; and, going up to the coach, desired to know her pleasure. I am either absolutely dreaming, said she, or you, Sir, so nearly resemble Miss D'Arville, known by me in

the convent of Avignon, that, if you are not her, you are certainly her brother. Imagine how I looked, at these words ; I know not what concealed my blushes, but a cold horror ran through every vein, which mortified my shame within me, and I discovered, that moment, that the lady, who spoke to me, was Miss Marli, educated with me in the convent of Avignon. I found it very difficult to hide my confusion, nor did I know how to answer her : however, as I had no time to lose in reflections, No, Madam, I am not brother to Miss D'Arville, said I, nor do I even know her, only by what I have read in the Gazettes. You will excuse my curiosity, Sir, said she, as I had a great regard for her; and supposing you to be her brother, I was in hopes to hear something about her from you. If I knew any thing of her, Madam, replied I, with more frankness than at first, I might have gained great favour at Versailles, by acquainting them with it; for they are continually searching for her with the greatest diligence. It is surprising, said the lady, that they can hear nothing of her in so long a time. This Miss D'Arville, answered I, must have been a girl of spirit, having

ing the courage to form and execute such a scheme. Miss Marli detained me near half an hour at the door of the coach ; and I found, by her discourse, that she was married at Turin about six months before, when she had just come out of retirement at Avignon: she broke off with assuring me, that if I would favour her with a visit, she should esteem it as a great pleasure. I took my leave, and promised to wait upon her; but, as soon as I was at liberty, resolved never to see her more. When I got back to my lodging, I reflected on what I should do: if I remain in Turin another moment, thought I, the curiosity of this woman may baffle all my schemes: Madam Marli waits for my visit, Miss Gianetton desires to go with me to Italy; I'll put both upon a par, and go off without seeing either; the one will call me ungrateful, the other rude: what does it signify? every ill is less than that which would happen if I was known. Having fixed this resolution, I left Turin that evening, and took the road for Lombardy.

## C H A P. XXXIX.

*Before my Arrival at Milan the Count of Termes is recalled to Paris.*

**M**ounted in a post-chaise, and accompanied only with my thoughts; I pleased myself with the hopes of seeing Count Termes, that I might acquaint him with my situation, and receive his advice. The nigher I drew to him, the more my love for him increased: never did I look so much at his picture as I did in that journey, though I always kept it about me; I pleased myself with the thoughts of surprising him when he least expected it, and in hearing the first transports of his tenderness. In less than two days I arrived at Milan, but so tired with my journey that I was obliged to retire to my bed, and my sickness, accompanied with a slight fever, gave me some uneasiness, being in an inn, and in a city where I knew nobody. I was then sorry that I did not take Miss Gianetton's council, whose company would have been very necessary to me. After two days repose my sickness vanished; and as I had been informed, the first day I came into town, that the Marshall  
of



of \*\*\*\* was in Milan, where he intended to establish his winter-quarters, I prepared myself to present to him the letters given me by the Prince, in which I was recommended. I provided a rich suit of cloaths in the military fashion, adapted to the profession I was going to embrace; and summonsed, to my assistance, all my resolution, to merit there a gracious reception.

I had scarce entered the anti-chamber of the Marshall, which was full of young officers, who, knowing I was of France, took particular notice of me: they asked me, courteously, what was my business there? when telling them that I came from Versailles, and had letters from the Prince of \*\*\*\* to the Marshall, they introduced me to his presence.

As soon as he saw me, You are, I suppose Sir, said he, with a lively and free air, Count Richard, who was Gentleman to the Ducheſs of \*\*\*\*, my particular friend; I have been some weeks expecting you, and was afraid you had mistaken the road; but I am now of a different opinion, and am rather induced to believe some love adventure has detained you by the way. I replied, that I supposed he had been  
informed

informed of what had happened to the Prince and me, at Paris ; giving him, at the same time, an account of my misfortune at Turin. I then presented him with the letters, full of generous expressions concerning me ; but he said they were needless, because he had others upon the same account, and that he had a commission at my service: you are then, said he, a Captain in the Burgundy regiment, which is quartered at Pavia, but you may remain with me, if you have a mind so to do, in Milan; in the mean time, you'll stay and dine with me to day, that I may measure your bravery by your appetite. He then gave me my commission, and I received the compliments of the gentlemen in the anti-chamber. I wished for an opportunity to be alone, to reflect properly on my new situation: I am now going to appear on the great stage of the world, in the character of a soldier; what could be more ridiculous and extravagant in a girl like me? if I had courage necessary for a soldier, I had neither the experience, art, or conduct, which alone, amongst so many dangers, could be a means of preserving my life: the idea of death did not terrify me, having desired it often, as  
an

an alleviation to my greatest afflictions ; yet love of life is natural to us all, and, in my present circumstances, it appeared more desirable than usual to me. Miserable me ! said I, in my heart, if, in a trench, or under a breach, I should remain mortally wounded : the secret of my sex would be discovered to the whole army ; and what would become of my reputation and honour ? how many would attribute this my metamorphosis, to an unbridled lust ! how many would deny me the glory of those virtuous principles, with which God was so good as to endow me, and which I shall ever study to maintain ! This thought tormented me much ; and when I reflected, that my love for Count Termes had reduced me to this extremity, I almost repented of loving him ; knowing, that he was the cause of every misfortune which had happened to me hitherto, and which might happen to me hereafter. I had a great desire to see him ; and my being ordered by the Marshall to remain in Milan, though my regiment was in Pavia, gave me incredible uneasiness : to evade which, my love soon found a remedy, and a passion, like mine, soon finds a thousand reasonable pretences ; the necessity

necessity of making myself known to my  
 regiment, was an excellent excuse for  
 me to get leave to go a few days to Pa-  
 via: I went soon after to the Marshall,  
 to get permission for a few days to visit  
 my regiment in Pavia: I found him  
 writing; and on seeing me, Come here,  
 says he, I am just writing to the  
 Duchess concerning yourself: I answer-  
 ed, that my person did not merit his  
 taking so much trouble about me; at  
 the same time I begged he would send  
 her my humble respects. I shall do it,  
 replied he, with pleasure; she has also  
 desired me to send Count Termes im-  
 mediately to Versailles, and, supposing  
 you to have been here some time, has  
 recommended your person: I have  
 obeyed her, even before I answered her  
 letter; and Count Termes will be at  
 Versailles to-morrow, for he left Pavia  
 the same day you came to Milan; and,  
 with the extraordinary post of this  
 night, I shall acquaint her with what I  
 have done for you, in consequence of her  
 recommendation. These words pierc-  
 ed like so many thunderbolts to my  
 poor heart; I knew not for what I  
 came, nor did I know how to go away;  
 I took my leave in the best manner I  
 could, and, returning to my habita-  
 tion,

tion, burst out immediately into a flood of tears : Just heaven ! said I, what state more painful, what destiny more obstinate than mine, in pursuing me in this manner ? I came purposely from Paris to Italy, to face death in the field of battle, in hopes of beholding Count Termes : and he, by the fatality of destiny, has been obliged to leave Pavia the very day I came to Milan : could any thing happen more, unlucky than this, to make me miserable and unhappy ! If the confusion of my mind had not blinded reasonable reflection, how soon might I have penetrated into the motives of the whole proceeding : in a few moments after, the words of Madam Cafardo's letter struck in my mind, in which she mentioned, that the Duchess resolutely designed to part with the Duke, and had others by whom she might bring it about, without my assistance ; and this must be her scheme, to obtain some account of the fugitive of Avignon : for this purpose she has sent for the Count ; and, from what she has heard concerning our correspondence at Avignon, supposes him to be an accomplice in my flight : heavens ! why did she not think of this remedy before ? why did she not send for him

to Versailles, while I was there, that the mystery of my parentage might have been unravelled on the spot? to what end should I tarry in Italy, deprived of the object which attracted me! and how can I leave it, without rendering myself contemptible to the Marshall, and to the Prince, my protector, who recommended me? Oh God! how great was my agony; I was bound to accept a company in the army, to sacrifice my liberty, to hazard my life, and endanger my honour; and all this for what? ---- Ah me! to that I was a stranger; and not to know the future consequences of it, was to me a double torment: my bark, however, was launched out into the open sea, and be the wind prosperous or foul, I must navigate the vessel in the best manner I could, and wait the events of time. I soon experienced that the dissolute and debauched way of life, common amongst the young officers, would by no means suit with my inclination or constitution; and therefore I resolved to ask permission of the Marshall to visit my regiment in Pavia, in order to avoid the obligation I was under of keeping them company. This the Marshall

Marshall readily granted me, with leave to go and return to Milan whenever I thought proper ; at the same time giving me a letter to the Brigadier who commanded there, that I might be treated with the utmost civility. I then proceeded on my journey to Pavia, and, as soon as I arrived, presented the Brigadier with the letters from the Marshall. I found a very obliging reception, and my quarters were appointed for me at the house of the Countess of \* \* \*, to whom I was conducted, the same evening, by one of the adjutants. This Countess was a widow lady of about twenty-two years of age, not very rich, but full of spirit and tolerably handsome : she had not, 'tis true, that vivacity and penetration which is so common and conspicuous in the French ladies, but I found that the want of it was rather owing to her education than to any deficiency of her natural talents. When I entered her house she received me in a genteel manner, and assigned me a very handsome apartment, telling me at the same time, she was sorry it was not in her power to accommodate me better : I replied that it was equal to my best wishes, and that her amiable company would make it

agreeable was it ever so bad. I began to be very happy in my new quarters, passing whole days in reading and writing; this the Countess attributed to melancholy, and rallied me often upon the little inclination I had for the company of the ladies; and I, in return, being desirous to get rid of her importunities, told her, that I saw nothing in the Italian ladies, sufficient to engage my attention; I should not, I confess, have answered her thus, had I not found her really troublesome to me.

#### C H A P. XL.

*Motives of Jealousy, which help to torment me.*

ONE morning the Countess desired my company to take a dish of chocolate with her; I entered her room while she was dressing at her toilet, and thinking that she would never have done, I liked my own condition the better for not subjecting me to that torture; but after waiting some time, I could not help joking, as usual, on her weakness; See, Madam, said I, a French woman in this time would have been dressed six times. You may talk as you please, replied she, about the French





tion of some ignorant bigot, who fills your mind with nothing else but stories of enchantments, witches, and ghosts; and when he returns you to your mother, you scarce know even the alphabet : when you are at the age of nine or ten, with these prejudices in your mind, you are put into a cloister, to receive such further improvements in your education as are judged necessary to qualify a fine lady ; and when you leave the cloister, you come tumbling into the world without knowing what it is, and begin to converse with men, without having one qualification necessary to maintain a conversation that would not be disagreeable to others, and more so to yourself : all this is owing to an ill-judged education ; in France, the women read more than the men ; by which they gain the reputation of being women of understanding and spirit. Well, replied the Countess, you may censure as you please the Italian ladies, nevertheless we women must act as women, and not as poets and authors, and, without these ornaments, there are people that will excuse us : this plainly shews that you are too nice with our sex ; I knew and have conversed with other French gentlemen, who

who have done more justice to the Italian ladies. They might have done it, answered I, as lovers, to delude you; and not to talk, as I do, like a friend. I don't know, said the Countess, but I can shew you a letter, which I received from Paris yesterday morning; read it, and you will know how he that wrote it speaks of the Italian women: so saying, she pulled it out of her pocket and tossed it on the toilet, that I might read it. The curiosity of other people's affairs was never my weakness, though it always was of service to me; I had no desire to see the contents, but as she tossed it upon the toilet, half open, it seemed to be wrote in a character which I thought was not new to me; I took it with a smile, but, when I read it, Oh God! what a sudden tumult rose in my soul, on seeing it was wrote by Count Termes, and contained as follows :

“ Madam,

I must say, that the Italian ladies, in point of constancy, are preferable to all other women; two letters of yours I have received since I came to Paris, and both confirm me in the high opinion I have for your person: every one, who is not insensible, cannot but  
adore

adore you though ever so far from you : I cannot assure you when I shall be for going to Italy, as my stay at this place depends entirely upon the Duchess of \* \* \* \*, who has called me here upon her own particular affairs : I can safely promise you, that, though afar off, I shall ever be, with the utmost respect to you, Madam,

TERMES."

What mystery did this letter unravel to me, and how many furious and disturbed ideas came at once into my mind ! Count Termes was, in my eyes, an ungrateful and perfidious wretch ; how much, thought I, have I suffered for him ? I went strolling about the world, in disguise, in continual danger of my reputation, liberty, and life ; without home, without refuge, without friends, and without parents ; and he, in the mean time, has given his heart to another woman : 'tis plain he has been very intimate with her at Pavia, for he is in haste to leave Paris to return back to her : in her I see, before my eyes, my rival, which alone is sufficient to make me wish for her death ; yet I am bound to live under one roof, and eat at one table with her, and to behave  
with

with the civility due from a stranger to a mistress of the house: if at first I thought that the Countess merited all my gratitude, I now thought she merited my hatred and disdain: female vanity had never any great power of my mind, because I was accustomed to act the man, and almost forget that I was a woman; but, on this occasion, it vigorously exerted itself, and I was fully convinced that the charms of the Countess were not to compare with mine, and that Count Termes did me great injustice. All these thoughts passed in my mind while I was reading the letter, and my greatest difficulty was how to suppress my agitation, that I might learn something more from the Countess. In returning her the letter, I asked her, coolly, how she became acquainted with Count Termes? That amiable Chevalier, said she, lodged in my house all last winter, and two months of this, which seemed to be only two days; every time I go into your room, or sit down with you, he comes into my mind; I took a pleasure in his company, because he liked conversation, and had a better opinion of the Italian women than you seem to have: she asked me, if Count Termes was my acquaintance?

quaintance ? and, upon my answering in the affirmative, she was open enough to tell me, that if he had not been called to Paris, he would certainly have married her that winter. Every word she spoke concerning him, was a wound to my poor heart, which had suffered all afflictions except that of jealousy, and which I found to be the greatest and sharpest of them all ; had the Countess known what trouble her words gave me, she would never have spoken of him more ; but she made me her confidant in all her tenderness, and took occasion, on every trifling accident, to reason with me about him, as if she did it on purpose to anger me : the city, and even the house, in which I expected to be at ease, was now an object of trouble to me ; the very bed I lay upon at night, when I reflected that it was the same on which that ingrateful wretch had slept, became odious to me ; and every word of the Countess, even the most indifferent, revived my jealous suspicions.

C H A P. XLI.

*My feigned Amour with the Countess, and  
Consequences attending it.*

**F**ROM morning till night internally troubled with these thoughts, I could no longer enjoy any quiet in a city, or house, that at first I took delight in ; the name only of Count Termes, would formerly have made my heart leap with joy, but now his name, and the house he lodged in, was to me a continual torment : to leave at once both that place and my rival, I thought would make me less unhappy ; but with what pretence could I leave those quarters, without leaving Pavia ? and how could I leave Pavia, when I had obtained permission from the Marshall to stay there some time ? After many reflections, I resolved to be ruled in all by reason, and, in preference to every other consideration, to follow the steps of virtue : it is enough, said I, to myself, that the Count is guilty ; a man is never wanting in excuses, and to a lover there is nothing more easy than to regain the heart with a little flattery ; I must convince him of his crime in a manner that he cannot deny it, and,  
when

when I have convinced him, I will leave loving of him, and his crime alone will serve to punish him. To compass this design, I must remain in the same house with the Countess, and dexterously get out of her hands one of the Count's letters, that I might send it to him inclosed in one of mine, and with it make him blush. The undertaking was very difficult, because as much as the Countess was foolish and imprudent, she would not have failed in this first of her amours, unless one could make her fall by some cheat; the weakest part in a woman of her character, thought I, is vanity; therefore I resolved to attack her on this side, and by that means obtain my desire; thus I was to represent a lover, a scene so contrary to that which passed in my heart; she with every word, I may say, gave me my death; and I, with every word, studied to excite in her breast a new tenderness; at the first assault the Countess was a little surpris'd, but declared some affection for me, and the next time confirmed it with words, protestations, and oaths of fidelity, so that I might repute myself the happiest lover upon earth; the Count was no more spoke of but as ingrateful and uncon-



unconstant, though she before expressed to me the praises she received from him; they were now represented in a different light; what she said now perhaps may be true, and not what she said before; but in either case she might be equally a liar.

My love with the Countess made great progress; I do not presume to say she really loved me, because real love cannot be where there is so much inconstancy; but there was every sign of a sincere tenderness, and one time in particular it was very near proving fatal to my scheme. Whoever of us was up the soonest went into the other's apartment to drink chocolate, and I used to wait upon her; but one morning to my misfortune, I was prevented by her coming into my room before I was hardly awake, with all that familiarity which, to a widow, hospitality, friendship, and love permits; she sat down on the side of the bed, and presented to me the chocolate; I would have sooner been at the head of a picquet in the field, exposed to an hundred archers, than in that bed at the face of one woman only, who might very easily have found what sort of an officer I was: I was used to sleep al-

ways with a linen bed-gown tight round my body ; had I only put one of my arms from under the cloaths, it would have been sufficient to let the Countess see what I was ; nor was there any method to rid myself of my fears, but by smiling, and saying, Dear Countess, since you have saved me the trouble of going to your room, save me that of putting my hands into the cold, and give me the chocolate yourself. The Countess, without the least suspicion, laughed and took pleasure in holding it to my mouth, and I, glad not to trouble her long, drank it off in two sips ; when she had drank her own, she went away laughing, and left me at liberty to dress myself ; and I swore in my heart never to let her catch me in bed any more.

But my principal view was to get some letter of the Count's out of her hands, and by appearing jealous I almost reduced her to the point of giving them to me to burn. One morning, while she was looking in her trunk for them, a footman brought me word that there was somebody desired to see me ; let them come in, replied the Countess, let who will want him they are welcome ; but how was I surpris'd  
at

at seeing a girl in a travelling dress, who, not observing the Countess, flew to me, and, throwing her arms round my neck, had almost kissed me. No one will wonder at this liberty when they know that this traveller was Miss Gianetton, who, going to sing at Milan, came expressly to Pavia to have the pleasure of seeing me; her visit would have been welcome, if in that encounter she had behaved a little more discreet. At sight of her I remained stunn'd, nor was the Countess less surprised than me; but jealousy possessed her that moment, and spitefully shutting the trunk, in which she was looking for the Count's letters, she gave me a frown which spoke a hundred things at once, and went out of the room without saluting the stranger; Miss Gianetton could not be but surprised at this accident, and asked me the reason? I made some excuse, and could soon have got rid of her company, but considering the obligations I lay under to her, I could not do it without shewing myself ungrateful: I was obliged to hear from her all the lamentable accidents of her journey, and how ill she was used by the governors of the theatre, and, in short, all that had happened since

I had left Turin : at length she went away, I could hardly exempt myself from accompanying her to her lodging, making a hundred excuses, and promising that before dark I would pay her a visit. As soon as she was gone I thought of reconciling myself with the Countess, but she would not hear me ; Go to your Singer, were the only words I could get from her, tho' I told her who Miss Gianetton was, and the obligations I owed to her ; in short, Madam, said I, let me tell you, that you Italian women are very unreasonable in your passions ; I do not mind your amours with Count Termes, because you knew him before you did me ; and you make a crime of my love with Miss Gianetton, though I knew her before I did you ; if Count Termes came into your room suddenly, and did not see me present, he would have acted in the same manner with you ; neither would you in that case have made any resistance. Even with these invincible reasons, nothing else would she answer but, Go to your Singer ; on this I grew a little hot, so scornfully saying, Then I will go, I immediately left her.

## C H A P. XLII.

*An Opportunity offers for me to convince Count Termes of his Infidelity, and to return to Milan.*

**L**EAVING the Countess I went directly to find Miss Gianetton, who in two hours time had contracted an intimate acquaintance with all the officers in the garrison; she did not tarry long at Pavia, but set out for Milan, accompanied with more officers than Armida, General of the French army, when attended by Godfrey's Captains, in the expedition of the Holy Land: I began to study how I should act with the Countess, that I might gain my intended point, and not throw away my time to no purpose. I went home in a very ill humour, and, as good luck would have it, the Countess was just gone out; I packed up a few necessaries in a portmanteau, got into a post-chaise, and left word by one of the servants that I was gone to Piacenza, where I should stay three weeks before I returned: when she came home, and heard the news, her grief was incredible; if she had no reason to treat me as she did, she had a great deal less to

lament being treated by me in that manner herself. A little sense, with her spirit, or, if it is permitted me to say, a little philosophy would have prevented her driving on this rock ; I had been but three days at Piacenza when I received a large packet, and inclosed Count Termes' letters, accompanied with one from the Countess, which I always have preserved, and which was as follow :

“ Dear Sir,

I sacrifice to you even the letters of Count Termes, that I might be able to say, I have done all in my power for you : I do not ask nor expect the least return from you, because, if you have the heart to abandon me for so many days, you are absolutely ungrateful : if you think proper to direct where I should send the remainder of your things you shall be obeyed. I do not expect to see you more, because you will not come ; and if you do, you will not see me alive. I am, devotedly,

Your Servant.”

Thus did I obtain my end in the most unexpected manner, and got possession of the letters wrote to my rival ;  
yet,

yet, on reading them, I could not find one word inconsistent with the strictest honour; but his writing them to her I thought a crime unpardonable. I determined immediately to write to Paris, and, by inclosing in the same packet those which occasioned my resentment, to convict him by his own hand writing; though at the same time I had some scruples in my mind, whether my treating, in this manner, a lady who confided in me, would be agreeable to the strict rules of honour and justice: finally, I concluded that the Countess had done wrong to sacrifice those letters to the jealousy of a third person, and I should act rightly in preserving Count Termes from the danger of seeing his honour entrusted to the weakness of other people; I therefore proceeded to write my letter, which was of this tenor:

“ Dear Sir,

This is the last time you will see any letter of mine, or hear further of my person; in the annexed you will see who is to be blamed: having done so much to prove my love to you, I can also endeavour to forget you. Adieu.

D'ARVILLE.”

The packet being sealed and directed, I sent it away, but knew not how to demean myself with the Countess; having obtained my wish, I might indeed return to Pavia; but how could I dissemble the part of a lover to one who was my rival, and, at the same time, the sole occasion of my breach with Count Termes? with the letters of the Count, I also sent the one the Countess wrote to me, that he might have ocular demonstration that he had sacrificed a faithful lover to an inconstant woman; and all these letters might have produced dangerous effects to me, if Count Termes had been so imprudent as to upbraid the Countess. Notwithstanding this, I was obliged to return to Pavia, in hopes that, before answers came from Paris, some accident would happen that would deliver me from the importunities of the Countess, and, if it came to the worst, I could contrive some way to be called back to Milan. After an absence of six days I arrived there, and the Countess received me as if no misunderstanding had happened between us; and if I could have erased from my mind her former connections with Count Termes, I might have passed my time with her in a comfortable and



and agreeable manner: but as the thoughts of his inconstancy were ever uppermost in my mind, I resolved to leave Pavia the first opportunity, and accordingly wrote to the Marshall, informing him that I was desirous of being recalled, and tired of remaining there utterly inactive, and useless to my King and country: this letter to the Marshall did me great honour, and he immediately sent orders for me to repair to Milan. After continuing there some days, we had notice to march to Piacenza. We passed that winter and the next spring in continual marches, that we might keep continual observation of the enemy. In the summer we incamped near Sacca, and extended into Parma, where there was a guard of six battallions. Nothing happened there worth mentioning; I received indeed some letters from Miss Gianetton and the Countess, which I answered according to my custom by another hand; but they soon left off importuning me, I suppose they found better ways to imploy their time. Of Count Termes I had no news, nor could I have it, because he did not know where I was, nor under what name to direct his letters to me; he now and then came into my

my mind, but the memory of him did not trouble me much, because my thoughts were employed on the dangers of my life, which was exposed every moment in the heart of an army who fought every occasion to come to battle with the enemy, and not a day passed without some skirmishes: it was not the love of my life that kept me in continual apprehension, so much as the fear of being discovered to be a woman, if I should, by some unlucky blow, be struck dead, and leave my honour exposed to the slander of the malicious; but the Marshall favoured me in all encounters, and I attributed it to the recommendation of the Prince, who often desired news of my person; his precautions nevertheless were not infallible, and my unlucky destiny followed me wherever I went.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XLIII.

*A Battle at Parma, where I was wounded in my Leg.*

**I**N the heat of the summer we had notice one night, in the camp, that the army of the Austrians decamped suddenly, and was marching towards Parma, in order to possess the road that leads to Piacenza: we immediately decamped and marched all that night, and two hours after sun-rise we were under the walls of Parma, entering on the road that led to the enemy; my battallion was, in the march, the second of the van-guard; we were hardly got forward half a mile before we found ourselves in the enemy's fire; the Austrians were in battle array in the field upon our left, which was covered with trees, and, being in the middle of summer, were full of leaves and boughs, which had hindered us from seeing them; a shower of shot was discharged at us from the bushes. The whole of our army upon that road consisted of only six battalions, and our situation being upon an eminence, our legs were much exposed to the enemy's fire; I was standing at a little distance,  
with

with my left leg across a pike, resting myself thereon, when on a sudden I received a wound in the calf of my leg by a musket-shot; the wound was slight, but on seeing the blood I was more frightened than hurt; however I seemed but little daunted at the accident, and, after the surgeon had dressed my leg, by the assistance of two soldiers, I mounted horse and went to a farm-house, which stood at about a mile distance from the field of battle; when I felt that the pain of my wound was but trifling, and the surgeon had assured me that in two days it would be perfectly well, I thought I had bought my life at a cheap rate, for the battle was not decided till night; and though the Austrian General lay dead in the field, and both armies had withdrawn, it could not be said on which side the victory lay; but the proceedings of the Austrians, that night, determined it in favour of the French troops, and, before day-light, the whole Austrian army decamped and left us masters of the field. The next morning the Marshall intending to send me express to Paris with the news of the victory, and thereby to please the Prince, my protector, enquired for me, and being informed

formed that I was wounded, dispatched another in my stead, and sent to my quarters his own surgeon with orders to inspect my wound; he found me out of bed, and so slight was my wound that I found no inconvenience from it, any farther than my being obliged to sit down that I might not irritate it; and I could not forbear laughing to think that I had represented a French officer, and could now give an account of a whole campaign, a bloody battle; and the wound I myself had received in it.

Our army did not tarry long encamped in the field of battle, but I continued in the house of the old man on account of my wound; I was not very well pleased with my lodging, however it was better than to be in a tent, exposed to the inclemency of the night air: to make it more agreeable I ordered my own bed to be brought, for the poor farmer could accommodate me with nothing but straw. The night was about two hours advanced, when there came running into my room, terribly frightened, a young girl, as I believed by her habit, about the age of fourteen or fifteen, in a country dress, with a genteel shape and noble air,

that shewed her to be of some grand family. For charity, Sir, said she, (crying, and throwing herself at my feet) for charity help me! Moved internally with compassion and surprize, I raised her from the ground, and asked the cause of her distress, and what I should do to help her? Shelter me, Sir, said she, at least for the night; some soldiers have plundered our house, and are in pursuit of me: I know not where to run, neither have I money to procure myself a lodging till day-light, when I can go into the city. If this is all you want, said I, remain with me, and fear nothing, the point is, that in this house there is no other bed than mine; I would not wrong your honesty so much as to ask you to lie with me, but we will manage for the best. I spoke this as a joke, not that I should make any difficulty in sleeping with one of my own sex, but I would not have done it at that time, upon any consideration, as I must have not only risked a discovery of my sex, but also in appearance have affronted her. I was not a little surprised when she accepted, without more invitation, my offer, and for one of her age I thought it extreamly immodest. Yes, Sir,

Sir, said she, you will do me a particular kindness, and may readily do it when in confidence, as you are a gentleman, I can assure you, than I am not a girl as I seem to you, but a nobleman's son. How! said I, you the son of a nobleman? why then in this dress, and at this hour, have you fled into the country for protection? he then related to me his history, by which I found he was the son of a noble Marquis, and had been driven to this distress by the severity of his tutor; but as he will be mentioned with more propriety in the second volume of these Memoirs, I shall at present only inform my readers, that when I found myself able to rejoin the army, I took him with me and presented him to the Marshall, who gave him a cornet's commission in a squadron of the guards.

## C H A P. XLIV.

*My Journey into various Cities of Italy,  
accompanied with some Misfortunes.*

**I** Was not present in any more actions that campaign, having caught a violent cold, occasioned by hardships to which my constitution was not accustomed; I remained indisposed in Bologna almost all that summer, but, being pretty well recovered, towards autumn I obtained leave of the Marshall, during that winter, to visit the other parts of Italy.

Departing from Bologna towards the latter end of autumn, I went to Padua, from thence to Vienna, Verona, and Brescia, which I found really worth my observation: in one of these, which to mention does not signify, I remained three days, during which time there was a great entertainment made, to which all the grandees of the country were invited; I also prepared myself to go, and dressing myself as grand as possible, resolved to see the magnificence of it. There was a gentleman at the door receiving the gentry as they came in, but as soon as I attempted to enter, he impudently pushed me aside,  
and



and asked me, loudly, what I wanted there? That which other people want, replied I. No, Sir, said he, this is not a place for you. I told him, that I was a gentleman, and an officer of France, and could claim admittance to the best company. These are things that you say, replied he, because people here know but little of you; the gentlemen and officers of France are not arrested and committed to the Bastille for spies, cheats, and rogues. These words, mixed with truth and falsity, exasperated me to such a degree, that I almost lost my reason; he is a scoundrel, said I, that says this of me, and merits my resentment: so saying, I started back a couple of steps, and clapping my hand to my sword, should have ran him through that moment, had not some gentlemen interfered, to whom I gave my reasons, and shewed my pass-ports from the Marshall. I was then admitted to the entertainment, where I received a thousand compliments on my behaviour, but this was not enough to satisfy me; I remained some time in that place with the sting in my heart, nor could I understand how a well-descended person could have the face to insult a stranger, without being sure

that what he had asserted was truth: my imprisonment in the Bastile was undeniable, and it was mentioned in all the Gazettes in Europe; but the reasons of it were known to every one, and that any thing against my character, relative to that affair, must be a malicious forgery and imposture. Not to leave such an infamous name behind me, in such an illustrious city, and to get some satisfaction for the affront, I had recourse to proper persons, and in consequence had justice done me; that impertinent gentleman was obliged to come in public to the same place where he had affronted me, and ask my pardon; he confessed he had been wrongly informed of my person: but this information served only to increase my torment, not being able to imagine who this person was; and to discover it from him that offended me, it was impossible. About three days after I happened to stop on the parade, to hear the noise of a mountebank from a stage that was built there, and where upwards of five hundred people were gaping at him, and hearkening to his nonsensical speeches; looking earnestly at him, I found it to be that villain Tartar, the comedian; I knew not for what reason  
 he

he came to Italy, but I supposed him to be the person who gave that false information of me to the man who had affronted me, nor did that day pass without my being fully satisfied by the landlord where he lodged, who was a sober, honest man, and one well acquainted with the country. I found from him, that between Tartar and the other there was a strict connection. To have this villain punished I thought would be an act of charity towards others, and justice to myself: I had, for a servant, one of my soldiers, a man of courage, and capable to resent any thing for love of me; and having communicated to him my just intentions, he watched for Mr. Tartar one night, when he was coming from the house of his protector, and gave him such a severe drubbing, that Tartar could not get out of his bed for two months after.

## C H A P. XLV,

*My Stay in Venice, and what happened to me in that City.*

**T**HIS affair made a great noise, and every one might see what wind brought that tempest upon Tartar; they could not but say I was in the right, or at least excuse me; but say what they pleased, I left that place a few days after, and went to Venice. Of this place I had read and heard great wonders, and, in truth, it fully answered my expectations. The carnival time being just begun, I might take what pleasure I thought proper, for no other city was so agreeable to me as this, by reason I was always afraid of being discovered to be Miss D'Arville, and the commodiousness of the masquerade here I thought would help to keep me secure. Having always made it my rule to fall in with the taste of the place, I procured a masquerade dress, and frequented the public assemblies; but my unlucky destiny pursued me even here, for having stayed in the public room one evening somewhat later than usual, on my coming out I was surrounded by a party of constables, who,

who, without giving me any reason for such treatment, conveyed me to a damp, dark, and stinking dungeon underground, where they shut me in, and, on leaving me, said, Now, Madam, justice has overtaken you, and you will have an opportunity in this place to reflect upon, and repent of your past behaviour. By the word, Madam, it was evident I was taken for a woman; and I made not the least doubt, but that the Duke had by some means got intelligence of me, and in consequence had caused me to be arrested. I passed that night on the bare boards, and, Oh, God! what was then my agony, and my most serious reflections! in the Bastille, I was in the hands of people that knew something of my honest character, and therefore I might expect from friends some relief; here I knew nobody, nor could I tell what suspicion they had conceived against me, when they used me thus without knowing me; the least I had to fear was a long imprisonment, and the fear of being discovered to be a woman troubled me more than the thoughts of death itself: at last daylight appeared, and the door of my dungeon being opened, there entered a man whom at the first sight I took to be my execu-

executioner; he advanced, saying to me, You are here then, unworthy; you are at last dropt into my hands; nor did it signify changing your cloaths to escape unpunished. I cannot describe the effect these words had on me, because I was out of my senses; I knew I was before a man of an advanced age and venerable aspect, who, looking at me stedfastly from head to foot, seemed astonished, and said, Dear Sir, excuse me, you are not Rosaura; my orders are badly executed, or else the constables were deceived in your appearance; let this gentleman be immediately released, for I have nothing to alledge against him. His orders were executed immediately, and I put on my masquerade dress to go out of that place without being known. When he saw me in the masquerade dress, Really, said he, to see you now, you resemble Rosaura so much that I absolutely should take you to be her; she was by me brought up from her childhood, and entertained with so much care in my house when my wife was living, that she loved her as a child of her own; it is now fifteen days since she ran away from the house, and, when I thought her in a foreign country, I observed her with a man's mas-

masquerade dress, going about Venice; and she had not only a dress like yours; but also the very air, mein, and shape; so, dear Sir, excuse me if you have received this ill treatment on my account; I am a gentleman, and to me you seem a stranger, nor would I have you carry a thought of me to your country that might be a dishonour to me; do me the favour to come to my house, which shall be yours as long as you stay in Venice, that I may have the pleasure of making you all the satisfaction in my power: he insisted upon my complying with his request, nor had I occasion afterwards to repent it, having found in this most worthy gentleman a real honest man: he conducted me with him to his house, then sent to my lodging for my things, with orders for my landlord to expect me no more.

At this gentleman's house I met with a most kind and agreeable reception, and after staying with him fifteen days, with great difficulty obtained his permission to depart. I left him with a promise to see him again as soon as possible, and proceeded on my journey to Bologna, and from thence took the road to Rome: I found the French army encamped on the Roman confines; I received